

Fielder's Choice

It's hard to go wrong when you're choosing between two new warm-season turfgrass varieties as outstanding as SeaIsle 1 Seashore Paspalum and TifSport Bermudagrass. These two new patented cultivars can only be sold as certified sod or sprigs, and only by a member of a select group of licensed growers. Our top-quality producers have agreed to a stringent set of production practices. This means the grass you buy from a Florida, Georgia or South Carolina grower is going to be the same grass you buy from a Texas or California grower. And it'll be the same 10 years down the road. If you're involved with the installation or on-going maintenance of a sports field, you'll really appreciate how these turfgrasses compare to Tifway 419 and the other older varieties in use today.

While SeaIsle 1 is similar in texture and wear tolerance to hybrid bermudas, it may offer a number of important advantages. First and foremost, it can handle multiple stresses: prolonged drought, high salt levels, waterlogging and extremely high or low soil pH levels. Secondly, SeaIsle 1 can tolerate most types of alternate water sources, including wastewater, effluent, gray water, brackish water, and even ocean water. It requires less irrigating, less fertilizer and only minimal pesticide applications when compared to other warm-season cultivars. It also handles cloudy conditions and the low light intensity of domed stadiums extremely well. That's why it was such a good choice for the Houston Astros' new field. Take a look at its pluses and specify SeaIsle 1 for your new sports field or renovation project.

SeaIsle 1
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www.seaisle1.com

TIFSPORT
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www.tifsport.com

Looking for a bermudagrass that can stand up to the stress and demands of big-time sports, to the wear and tear of football and soccer cleats, to the punishment of baseball slides, dives and spikes? Relax; you've found it. TifSport has outstanding color, disease resistance and cold hardiness, too. In fact, TifSport is performing with flying colors as far north as FedEx Field in Landover, Maryland. It's also the Houston Texans choice for their new retractable roof Reliant Stadium. If you're a sports turf manager, you know what's important for a playing field - outstanding density, turf strength and turf quality. You need a grass that recovers quickly from day-in-and-day-out abuse. And that's just what TifSport has been bred to do. Be sure to ask for TifSport certified bermudagrass by name.



MULTI-TERRAIN LOADERS

Caterpillar introduces its 247 and 257 multi-terrain loaders, compact rubber-tracked machines that have suspended undercarriages to allow them to work in many conditions. High traction, flotation, and low ground pressure make them useful in soft conditions or sloped terrain.

Both units use Cat 3034 diesel engines.

Caterpillar/309-675-4693
For information, circle 146

CASTER WHEEL MOWER

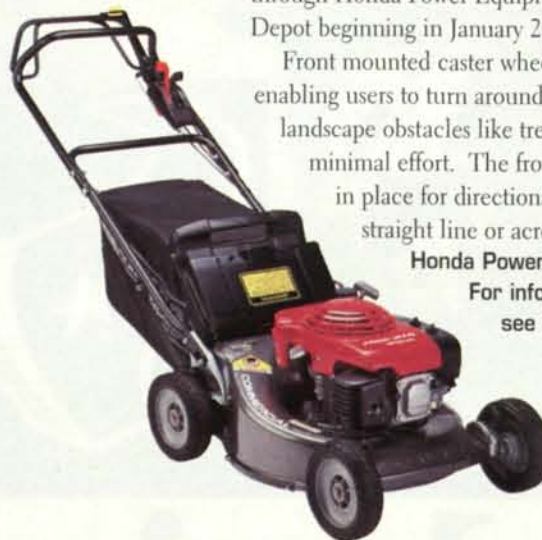
Honda Power Equipment will introduce a caster wheel version of its Harmony II lawnmowers to meet customer demand for enhanced maneuverability.

The Honda HRZ216TDA will join the existing 5-model line-up of value oriented Harmony II mowers, and will be available through Honda Power Equipment Dealers and The Home Depot beginning in January 2003.

Front mounted caster wheels provide for zero turning radius, enabling users to turn around in place or easily navigate around landscape obstacles like trees, shrubs, beds, and rocks with minimal effort. The front wheels also can be easily locked in place for directional stability when traveling in a straight line or across a slope.

Honda Power Equipment/800-426-7701

For information, circle 141 or
see www.OneRS.net/212sp-141



SNOW BLOWERS

Loering's new line of snow blowers maximize capacity and throwing distance while eliminating the hassles associated with snow removal, says the company. Five models are available. Loering's impeller design draws in only as much snow as it can throw to provide the appropriate balance of rpm and torque to maximize both capacity and throwing distances. The reversible auger and impeller design expels obstructions without having the operator exit the loader.

Loering/800-373-5441

For information, circle 152, or
see www.OneRS.net/212sp-152

SNOWTHROWER

PTO-driven 48- and 60-in. snowthrowers attach to any front-mount Grasshopper True ZeroTurn power units. Discharge spout rotates a full 180 degrees to throw snow up to 30 ft. Durable units feature heavy-gauge welded steel construction and blizzard-busting performance, even in deep or heavy, wet snow.

Optional Winter Enclosure and 16,000-BTU/hr heater shield operator from harsh conditions.

The Grasshopper Co./620-345-8621
For information, circle 142 or
see www.OneRS.net/212sp-142



Brolin's hit list

For Dennis Brolin, the first order of business before developing a turf conditioning system at the Patriots' new field was to thoroughly research the technology, and similar systems. His search for information, over many months, entailed countless calls, long hours, and trips to several NFL venues. Here is what he calls his "hit list":

Cleveland Browns. Turf pro Chris Powell taught him how to accommodate for movement of the sun, and varying levels of heat as light shifted around the stadium. Brolin also learned from them about the importance quality control on the field construction site. Specifically: soil testing, sub-contractors and budgeting.

Denver Broncos. Ross Kurab is a top trouble-shooter. Challenges they had with their system helped Brolin to avoid a myriad of problems.

Baltimore Ravens. Vince Patterozzi was especially helpful with insights that enabled Brolin to understand and better manage the labor union issues. Plumbers, electricians and other skilled labor professionals were given focused directives and kept on task, on schedule and on budget.

Chicago Bears. At first, Brolin was resistant to trying state-of-the-art "soil amending" practices. Ken Mrock convinced him to do this. "I'm very grateful for his help. The turf is healthy and resilient to disease," says Brolin.

FASTER STRONGER EASIER

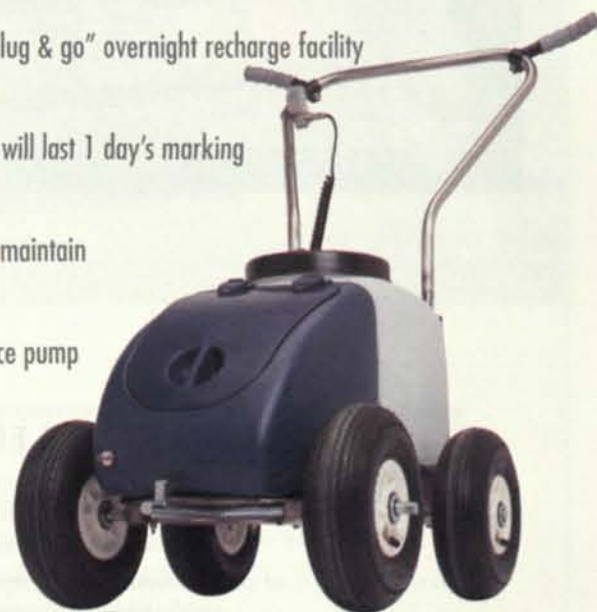
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See us at STMA Show Booth 501

Circle 111 on card or www.OneRS.net/212sp-111

SUB-COMPACT TRACTOR ATTACHMENTS

Woods Equipment has new line of attachments made for sub-compact tractors with engines up to 25 hp. Estate Series includes a 48-in. box scraper, 60-in. landscape rake, and 60-in. rear blade. Fit category 1 or 0 three-point hitches.

Woods Equipment/866-869-6637
For information, circle 148 or
see www.OneRS.net/212sp-148



MULTIFUNCTIONAL TOPDRESSER

Ty-Crop has been helping turfgrass professionals create improved playing conditions with low impact, high performance top dressing equipment since 1985. The midsize QuickPass 450 and quick attach options (no tools required) is a perfect fit with most tow vehicles and offers the productivity to quickly top dress several fields in a single day. For added versatility, the QuickPass is designed with the ability to spread a wide variety of wet or dry materials at varying widths and depths.

Ty-Crop/604-794-7078
For information, circle 140 or
see www.OneRS.net/212sp-140

LARGE TURF EQUIPMENT LIFT

The Heftee 4000 safely accommodates equipment up to 87 in. wide, can lift 4000 lbs. to 6 ft in less than a minute, and needs no special installation. Techs can stand comfortably with unrestricted access to service areas using this lift, and it is easily moved to other shop locations.

A ramping system eases loading and unloading, and there are no crossbars or twisting cables, while all jacks, booms, supports are integrated into the lift.

Heftee Industries/800-755-7540
For information, circle 149





LIGHTWEIGHT BLOWER

Despite weighing only 21 lbs. with pipes, the Echo PB-650 provides 630 cfm air volume and 205 mph air speed, both measured at the end of the pipe. The PB-650 features a 63.3-cc commercial grade engine and 69-oz. see-through fuel tank and commercial air filtration system.

Echo, Inc./800-673-1558

For information, circle 143 or
see www.OneRS.net/212sp-143

EASY SPREADER ATTACHMENT

Responding to demand for a quick, easy attachment option for the 1075 Pivot Pro tailgate spreader, SnowEx has available a receiver mount, designed for class III hitches. It bolts onto the bumper, requiring no holes to be drilled in the bed or tailgate. This also increases the flexibility of the vehicle without a permanent mount required.

TrynEx International
800-725-8377

For information, circle 147



B 2 1 / L 3 5 / L 4 8

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Financing available through Kubota Credit Corporation. www.kubota.com



Circle 112 on card or www.OneRS.net/212sp-112

BACKPACK BLOWER

The new RedMax EB7001 backpack blower is powerful for its 21.2 lbs. Yet the sound from that air movement and the 62cc two-cycle engine is just 75dB(A). For operator comfort, the unit has an exclusive air conditioning system, a special manifold directs cool air from the blower across the operator's back. A free flow net protects the blower's mechanics from leaves.

Komatsu Zenoah America/800-291-8251, x213
For information, circle 144 or
see www.OneRS.net/212sp-144



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Circle 113 on card or www.OneRS.net/212sp-113



SKID-STEER REPLACEMENT

The RC-50 from ASV is the same size as most popular skid-steers but uses a rubber-track system to provide more traction, power, digging ability, and load retention with better durability, says ASV. The unit has a ground pressure of only 2.7 lbs. per sq. in. to be easy on turf when necessary.

All Season Vehicles/218-327-3434
For information, circle 151



GANG REEL MOWER

American Lawn Mower is offering ProCut, its first gang mower system that can mow up to 3.5 acres an hour with a cutting path of 8.5 ft. Each seven-blade, seven cutting head configuration weighs 32 lbs. A flexible hitch produces natural downward pressure to ensure an even cut and enhanced maneuverability for contours.

The units feature a zero-turning radius and full-reverse capabilities, and can be manually lifted and folded for transport and storage.

American Lawn Mower
800-633-1501
 For information, circle 150



CHIPPER SHREDDER

Harper Industries has Goossen chipper shredders available with some improved modifications for longer life. Available in towable gas engine or PTO-driven models both with double-wall, 10-gal. steel drum housings. Will accept up to 5-in. diameter limbs and branches. Hopper cover increases safety.

Harper Industries/800-835-1042
 For information, circle 145

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Before After Model 800

Circle 114 on card or www.OneRS.net/212sp-114



From brushes to spinners— not just topdressers anymore

BY MARLENA CANNON

It wasn't all that long ago that sportsturf maintenance equipment always included a good old brush machine of some sort. But as many sportsturf managers are discovering, leaving those machines in the shed saves time and money since manufacturers of topdressers have upgraded and fine-tuned their equipment to meet the needs of professionals in athletic turf industry.

Logan Hamocon, owner of Sport Turf Hawaii, is a case in point. As a contractor and consultant with the City and County of Honolulu, the Kamehameha Schools sports fields, the parks on Oahu and others, he does everything from construction, design review and specification, inspection, and setting up maintenance programs.

Ten years ago as a golf course superintendent in the Philippines, he used a self-contained unit with spinners attached to it. The distribution was very poor especially when the material was wet, which was pretty much all the time. For large areas, he would go with a spinner and accept the distribution inefficiency because of the time savings. But for work on the greens, he would spec a drop type spreader with a brush. And, he acknowledges that took forever.

Now he's an avid advocate of spinner type topdressers. What made him switch?

"The advancements in the machines over the last 5 years has made an enormous difference," says Hamocon. "In the early '90s doing a fine turf topdressing without a brush was impossible. Now, that's not a problem at all. You can vary the depth of the

layer from a fine dusting to a thicker layer depending on what the field needs."

Rich Valentine, grass superintendent at Delaware echoes Hamocon's views. Eighteen months ago, he bought a Dakota 440 Turf Tender to replace his old brush type topdresser. Initially, the idea was to save time.

"Racing is such a time-sensitive operation," says Valentine. "The horses train in the morning, so our crew has only a half-a-day to get the work done. Quite frankly, we had quit topdressing because there just weren't enough hours in the day. Buying the Dakota enabled us to get back into good agronomic practices. It's all about increasing productivity. You can get more accomplished, in less time with less people, with a well-built topdressing machine."

The versatility of today's spreaders has impressed a lot of sportsturf managers. Valentine says he gets a kick out of trying to figure out other ways to use his machine, saying proudly that he probably comes up with a new idea every month.

On his race course grounds, Valentine says he uses his topdresser "to mulch beds without breaking branches or to throw pea gravel into drainage ditches. We rarely use a wheelbarrow anymore."

Hamocon agrees saying that he uses his machine for infield work, fertilizing and landscaping jobs like spreading mulch and wood chips. "I used to have to have a lot of different pieces of equipment," Hamocon adds. "Now, I would feel very confident speci-

fyng one good topdresser to do it all."

Last year, the City of Winnipeg used their topdresser for their soccer fields, baseball diamonds, and cricket fields. With the efficiencies they found there, they've decided this year to put the machine into other uses as well. One of the most showcased sections of the City's Riverwalk system is from the legislative buildings to The Forks, a national park where the Red River and Assinboine Rivers meet. Every spring, after the high waters of the rivers recede, a new limestone base needs to be put down on this high-traffic tourist attraction. This year, rather than apply the limestone with tractors and tedious hand spreading, the City will be pulling the topdresser out of the shed.

"We think we can spread it more evenly, adjust the depth of the limestone better and get it applied more smoothly than the old way," says a superintendent of parks. "The walk is a mile long and 12-15 feet wide. I'm guessing we can do the job in a third of the time."

Bob Eichert, vice president of Aer-Core, Inc., Downingtown, PA, provides aerification, seeding and topdressing services to several hundred golf courses and sports fields. He also sells equipment.

"We've seen a general increase in the sales of topdressers," he says. "But in the last 5-7 years, we've really seen an increase in the number of athletic field managers who want that service contracted. There's such a high demand on the quality of the turf and the need for the players to have a good playing surface is critical. Many sports fields were poorly built to begin with and in many cases, the construction equipment used to build them contributed to the compaction. That, combined with heavy use, has resulted in fields that are in terrible condition. Heavy core aeration and topdressing with a good compost can bring a field back to life in a hurry."

He also attributes the increase in sales and demand for service to the fact that the new topdressers are so well designed, citing those models which feature low psi tires, large hoppers, and exacting calibration features.

Hamocon's take is the same. "Some turf managers may feel like the accuracy of a spinner application is more difficult," he says. "With the fine-tune calibration capability on the newer machines, the only problem you really have is with the operator. If something goes wrong, it probably wasn't because of the machine."

Another reason for the increasing acceptance of topdressers in sports field management is economics. "Cost used to be a factor," says Eichert. "That's just not the case anymore. These machines are really material movers, that can backfill, spread gravel, lime, seed, fertilizer, and topdress all in one. Plus, some topdresser models include a front-end box scraper. When you think about all the machines they replace, the investment just makes sense."

ST

Marlena Cannon is a freelance writer who specializes in green industry topics.

PROFESSIONAL MOWER

The Exmark Lazer Z XP mower is available with 60- or 72-in. UltraCut decks. The E-Z Striping Kits fit all units

and allow operators to mow and roll simultaneously. Units are available with fuel-efficient 3-cylinder Daihatsu 27-hp liquid-cooled diesel models or powerful 31-hp liquid-cooled gas models.

Exmark's up-top radiator positioning draws the cleanest, coolest air, substantially increasing engine life, says the manufacturer, while liquid-cooling passages in each cylinder dramatically reduce engine noise.

Exmark/402-223-6300

For information, circle 200,

or see www.OneRS.net/212sp-200



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Keeping score



Improvements are making scoreboards more versatile and cost effective

There have been several product improvements regarding scoreboards and timing systems during the past few years that are making scoreboards easier to install, operate, view and maintain.

According to Mike Evke, CEO of Eversan Inc., a Whitesboro, N.Y. scoreboard manufacturer, LED displays are providing low power consumption and more than 100,000 hours of operation for indoor applications. For outdoor applications, reflective digits allow view of scoreboards in direct sunlight. Portable scoreboards allow users to keep score anywhere with battery power. Dynamic wireless network communications provide hassle-free installation and operations of single or multiple scoreboards within the same facility, indoor or outdoor.

"The biggest improvement is dynamic wireless communications with 2.4 Ghz digital spread spectrum data transmission with auto-channel setting allowing interference free operations," said Evke. "For LED systems and reflective systems, dynamic network communication protocol is capable of integrating cabled and wireless scoreboards. This allows auxiliary display systems such as shot clocks or additional timers within the same network setup, providing cost savings as well as being able to integrate with older installations."

According to Evke, when considering multiple scoreboard installation with a wireless setup, the dynamic network is ideal because it allows users to operate scoreboards independently as well as in unison.

There are a lot of functions that are use-

ful additions to conventional display systems. For example: Eversan's surface-mounted, unexposed LED's that make the scoreboards resistant to vibration or shock; indoor LED scoreboards do not require an additional protective screen, allowing clear visibility to spectators; and wireless technology has 2.4Ghz radios embedded within its systems, which provides auto channel settings as well as interference free operation.

According to Evke, if a customer has an athletic facility where there is more than one sport being played, they don't have to buy multiple scoreboards. Multipurpose scoreboards are capable of providing scoring, timing and all other necessary information for multiple sports. The systems setup time from one sport to another is fast and simple.

Regarding installation, Evke said that Eversan's scoreboards are designed in a modular format so that typical sign companies or maintenance crews at an athletic facility can easily install them. If customers choose not to install the product themselves, they can have the scoreboard installed for them.

According to Evke, there are several new solutions that Eversan can foresee in the near future for its customers.

"One thing we're focusing on now is hardware/software system integration solutions," said Evke. "This system would provide coaches and athletic directors with the means to better run their teams. We have an aggressive research and development division working on revolutionary projects that would provide the needed tools for athletic directors to become more competitive and train management to make better decisions."



Photos courtesy of Eversan Inc.