A quality spreader assures that seed, fertilizer and dry chemicals 'hit the ground running.'

by TERRY McIVER / Managing Editor

Your "ground level" plan for turf and landscape management should include a spreader that matches the size of the job, and is versatile enough to carry and deposit a variety of products.

Art Downing, sports field supervisor for the Howard County, Md., recreation and parks department, looks at spreaders from four angles:

1) Easy to load. This means the hopper has to be wide enough to accept the bag of material that you're loading, and low enough so you don't have to lift the bag very high off the ground.

2) An agitation device that works. Pelletized lime, for example, works much better in spreaders than the powdered variety, says Downing.

3) Ease of operation. Gauges should not be complicated, says Downing, requiring only "an easy on or off."

4) Consistent spreading pattern. This is important whether it's a tractor model that throws material 25 feet, or a walk-behind model with a spread of 5 feet. In the walk-behind category, Downing prefers spin models over drop spreaders. "If you don't walk the exact pattern, [drop spreaders] will miss," he says. "They're great for powdered lime, but that's about all."

You won't have uniform turf color and vigor if your spreader puts material down unevenly. This means the spreader chute or ports must be cleaned before and after every application, or at least given a good look to check for clogged particles.

Drop spreaders may also not apply materials evenly if the driver or person walking behind it is not moving at an even pace. Too fast an application may result in missed spots or inadequate coverage. Too slow an application will cause materials to be applied heavier than necessary.

High-capacity walk-behind models reduce the labor involved in refilling the hopper repeatedly on the same site. Spreaders from Agri-Fab, for example, come in 100-lb. push models as well as 125-lb. or 175-lb. tow-behind models.
The model MG 10 features very heavy-duty jobs. Use them to fertilize, apply seed, herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and nematicides. Four- and five-foot models can be ordered with a handle to maneuver in small areas. Two rotors are independently driven from each end with three lengthwise rods spaced uniformly around the core for gentle agitation and free material flow.

GROTECH
(800) 725-8377
Circle No. 205

The MPS-125 is a multi-purpose spreader to mount on any tractor, utility vehicle, front mower or truck. A simple trailer attachment enables the user to pull the unit behind a golf cart. The MPS-125 spreads evenly, regardless of the throttle rpm or terrain. The spinner height adjusts 24 inches vertically, on a three-point hitch mount. The spread pattern adjusts from 4 to 40 feet.

HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT. CO.
(319) 363-8281
Circle No. 206

The SV System Vehicle comes with a spreader accessory that carries 14 cu. ft. of materials. The working width adjusts from 20 to 66 feet. It installs with brackets on top of the polyethylene hopper (with formed steel frame) for lifting. The SV hydraulic system provides the drive. One spout is used for sand and salt applications, another for seed and fertilizer.

JACOBSEN
(414) 637-6711
Circle No. 207

The SV System Vehicle comes with a spreader accessory that carries 14 cu. ft. of materials. The working width adjusts from 20 to 66 feet. It installs with brackets on top of the polyethylene hopper (with formed steel frame) for lifting. The SV hydraulic system provides the drive. One spout is used for sand and salt applications, another for seed and fertilizer.

MARYUYAMA
(206) 885-0811
Circle No. 209

The MG10 granule spreader carries seed, fertilizer and other dry chemicals, up to 2.9 gallons in capacity. The Model MG10 features very uniform distribution and an 18-foot range. The spread pattern can be set for left or right side, or a 180-degree coverage. It has a 10 position adjustable discharge volume and tank agitator to eliminate clumps or jamming.

RIVERSIDE GARDENS
(607) 729-2292
Circle No. 210

The Applicator’s Friend shield encloses the rear portion of fertilizer spreaders to reduce operator exposure to materials. The shield does not affect the spreader operation or spread patterns. The Applicator’s Friend shield is thermoformed from durable, high-tech, corrosion-resistant materials. The shield can be cleaned easily with water, and it can be attached in minutes.

The Turf Tracker has a spreader mounted on the front. The Spyker Spreader, below, has responsive controls.