By CURT HARLER, Contributing Editor

They may look similar, but the walk-behind mower at your dealer’s shop is not the same as the one that has been serving your business for the past several years. Improvements in ease of deck adjustment, user-friendly hand controls, fuel efficiency and noise reduction make the 1999 models worth considering.

In most operations, it is the walk-behind mower that provides the finishing touches to any job. In some cases, it’s the only machine required.

Like everything from rakes to pick-up trucks, the price of mowers has gone up. But the features available in today’s mowers mean that they will pay back their additional cost in a relatively short time.

AMERICAN HONDA
770/497-6000
www.honda.com

The new TruGear mid-size, walk-behind mowers from Honda, Duluth, GA, offer an attractive price point, and feature gear drive with no internal drive belts. The HRC 7113TXA is available with a 36- or 48-inch deck. The 13-hp OHV Honda engine runs for a long time thanks to the 6-gallon fuel tank. Transmission is a twin, 4-speed gear with ball bearing supported axles. Units have four forward and one reverse speed. Hour meter is standard. Optional 54-inch sweeper or 38-inch snow blower attachments are available.

Circle No. 250

ARIENS
920/756-2141
www.ariens.com

The Ariens 21-inch commercial mower line is manufactured in Brillion, WI, of 14-gauge steel and solid steel axles. Available as a push- or self-propelled unit, it has the option of mulching, bagging, vacuuming or side discharging — all from one machine at one price. The multi-position handlebar is ergonomically shaped to reduce wrist and hand fatigue. A 6-hp, overhead-valve, Robin engine features full-pressure lubrication, full-flow spin-on oil filter, a cast-iron cylinder liner and half-gallon fuel tank. The Disc-O-Matic drive on the self-propelled model allows ground speeds between 0 and 4 mph at full engine rpm.

Circle No. 251

JOHN DEERE
800/537-8233
www.deere.com

One lever controls the speed, direction and tracking of the hydrostatic wide-area commercial walk-behind mowers from John Deere, Research Triangle Park, NC. The 14-hp HD45 and 17-hp HD75, equipped with an overhead-valve 4-cycle gas engine, provide easy starting, improved fuel effi-
One lever controls the speed, direction, tracking of John Deere walk-behind units. Efficiency, lower noise levels and cooler operating temperatures. Choose from a 36-, 48- or 54-inch deck. The larger two decks are equipped with 48-, 52- or 61-inch cutter decks. There is a simple blade brake-clutch control with no bail, and fail-safe controls: when the operator lets go there is instant traction stop. Engine options include a 14-hp Kawasaki, and twin-cylinder 18- or 20-hp Kohler electric starts. There is a dual hydro drive system with independent left/right wheel control and ground speeds to 6 mph in forward, 3 mph in reverse.

Circle No. 255

GREAT DANE
812/2246-1870
www.greatdane.com

The zero-radius turn Scamper from Great Dane Power Equipment, Sellersburg, IN, comes with 36-, 48-, 52- and 61-inch cutter decks. There is a simple blade brake-clutch control with no bail, and fail-safe controls: when the operator lets go there is instant traction stop. Engine options include a 14-hp Kawasaki, and twin-cylinder 18- or 20-hp Kohler electric starts. There is a dual hydro drive system with independent left/right wheel control and ground speeds to 6 mph in forward, 3 mph in reverse.

Circle No. 256

LAWN-BOY
612/888-8801
The 21-inch Lawn-Boy Commercial is powered by a 6.5-hp DurarForce engine. Staggered wheel design provides easier maneuvering and reduced scalping. Fuel tank holds 4.25 quarts of gas. Unit, made by Toro, Bloomington, MN, has a lightweight cast-aluminum deck, steel wheels and cast iron sleeve. It is EPA-certified and carries a 2-year commercial engine warranty. Mulching kit and bagging kits are optional, but the forward-positioned discharge chamber disperses clippings at the fastest point, virtually eliminating windrowing or clumping.

Circle No. 257

LESCO
800/321-5325
www.lesco.com

For operations on difficult terrain, the Lesco 48-inch and 54-inch Float Deck rotary mowers are the answer. Floating deck with pneumatic caster wheels and fully articulating front axle assures precision cutting. Deck is designed for maximum air flow for even dispersion of clippings. Height adjusts on four-pin system. The 48-inch version comes with a 17-hp electric-start Kawasaki, the 54-inch with a 20-hp electric-start Kohler. Both have 5-gallon fuel tanks and true zero-turn radius.

Circle No. 258

MTD PRO
330/225-2600
www.mtdproducts.com

The 1852 wide-track, dual-hydro, commercial mower from MTD Pro, Cleveland, OH, offers an 18-hp Vanguard V-Twin engine and a 52-inch fixed fabricated cutting deck. Dual hydrostatic transmission allows on-the-go tracking adjustment while 5-gallon tank keeps the unit working. Electric start makes it easy to get the mower going and the standard backup recoil spells reliability. Tapered roller bearings in the spindles add reliability and increase life. Mulching kit and bagger

Great Dane Scamper offers 36-, 48-, 52- and 61-inch cutter decks.
are available as options. The MTD Pro is targeted to commercial uses, while the company's Cub Cadet, White, Yard-Man and Yard Machine lines are for residential use.

Circle No. 259

HOWARD PRICE TURF EQUIPMENT 314/532-7000

The Hydro Walk-Behind from Howard Price, Chesterfield, MO, features dual hydro control levers. They allow the operator to independently set each drive wheel's speed. The unit's floating desk system oscillates nine inches to prevent scalping in tender grass areas.

Circle No. 260

PRO INC. 318/635-8184 www.promowers.com

The Pro Rolling Trimmer/Mower is a professional-grade high-wheel unit that uses monofilament cutting line. The RTM is engineered in Sheeporto, LA, to provide a consistent cutting height when trimming under fences and shrubs, along buildings, or around trees. Fixed-line cutting head accommodates four-line or two-line use and offers widths up to 25 inches. It accepts any diameter line from 0.080 to 0.155. It comes with commercial grade 2- or 4-cycle engines, ranging from 5 to 6 hp. Belt idler system allows engine to keep running when the cutting head is disengaged.

Circle No. 261

ROOF EQUIPMENT 909/354-7600 www.roofmowers.com

The new 39400K Piranha walk-behind trimmer mower from Roof Equipment, Riverside, CA, is designed to cut wet or dry weeds or grass at amazing speed. It features a 5-hp, overhead-valve, Kawasaki engine, solid aluminum 1.5-inch cutting head, and uses 0.155 mil thick monofilament cord for more effective cutting. Large 20-inch wheels with precision bearings roll easily. New sprint-loaded clutch prevents premature belt failure.

Circle No. 262

SARLO POWER MOWERS 800/749-5296

A couple of tough string mowers from Sarlo, Ft. Myers, FL, offer quick, tool-free height adjustment. The 16-inch high rear wheels feature ball bearing hubs, steel rims and spokes, and thorn-resistant tires. The push-vision Sarlo SST61/C and the self-propelled SST65PC provide a 22-inch cut. A 6-hp engine can be either a Honda or Kawasaki. Sarlo's string trimmers have four high-speed trimmer lines to assure even cutting. There are no spoons to jam and the spindles' anti-tangle design comes with a five-year warranty.

Circle No. 263

SCAG POWER EQUIPMENT 920/387-0100 www.scag.com

The Ultimate Hydro walk-behind from Scag, Maryville, WI, features an easily adjustable floating cutter deck with field-adjustable heights from 1 to 4.5 inches, no tools required. Self-adjusting, spring-loaded idler pulleys save time, effort and repair costs by keeping belts in perfect adjustments. New control levers increase productivity and comfort, with less hand-grip reach and lighter spring tension. Patent-pending Adjust-A-Trac feature allows instant, no-toll neutral and tracking adjustment. Comes with 36-inch deck and 15-hp Kohler engine, or 48-inch with 17-hp Kawasaki.

Circle No. 264

SNAPPER 888/SNAPPER www.snapper.com

Field-serviceable spindle assemblies make it possible to rebuild the spindle assembly on the Pro-Hydro SPLH140KWE with standard tools while it is still mounted to the mowing machine. This innovation from Snapper, McDonough, GA, keeps mowers going during the busiest months. Full-floating deck with easy cut adjustment and 7-gauge steel deck is standard; 36-, 48-, 52- and 61-inch widths are available. Independent left/right crank height-of-cut adjustment with built-in height gauge makes moving simple. Attachments include Ninja mulching system, hard plastic or cloth grass catcher, sulky and snow removal kits.

Circle No. 265

SWISHER MOWER 800/222-8183

www.swisherinc.com

Three models of perfectly balanced mowers — with 19-, 20- and 22-inch cutting widths — are available from Swisher Mower & Machine, Warrensburg, MO. All feature rugged cast aluminum decks, made of recycled/recyclable material, that will not rust out like steel decks. Each comes with a 3.75-hp Briggs & Stratton engine with safety control system that stops the blade as soon as the handle is released. The 19-inch version has a 6-inch front and 8-inch real wheel incremental height adjustment. The 20-inch model has a 7-inch front and 8-inch rear quick incremental adjustment. A mulching attachment is available only for the 20-inch model.

Circle No. 266

TEXTRON TURF CARE 414/637-6711 www.textronfucare.com

The Bob-Cat® Variable Speed midsize mower is designed to deliver a top-quality cut and reliable performance. It has a variable speed pulley drive transmission. There are two engine choices: a 14-hp Kawasaki or a 15-hp Kohler; and five cutting deck options: 32, 36, 48, 54 and 61 inches.

Circle No. 267

THE TORO COMPANY 612/888-8801 www.toro.com

First available from Toro, Bloomington, MN, in February, the ProLine 21-inch heavy-duty mower line now includes a Kawasaki full pressure lube engine. The unit's 3.5-hp, 4-cycle OHV engine also has a larger, more durable 25 mm diameter crankshaft custom built for Toro.

Existing Suzuki 2-cycle and Briggs & Stratton 4-cycle engines are also available for Toro. Three models are offered: the zone start (hand push 22170), zone start self-propelled 22171 and the BBC self-propelled 22172. The BBC (blade brake clutch) model stops the blade from spinning yet allows the engine to remain running once the bail is released. Units are CARB and EPA certified and include a 2-year engine warranty.

Circle No. 268

TRU-CUT, INC. 323/258-4135 www.trucutinc.com

The commercial line of mowers from Tru-Cut, Los Angeles, CA, includes the C2150HQ Commercial Pro which comes with standard, large-capacity commercial fabric grass catcher and has an optional steel catcher. Powered by either a 5- or 5.5-hp Honda overhead valve motor, or a Briggs & Stratton 5 hp, it features 8-inch front wheels, 10-inch real dual ball bearing wheels with zerk fillings. The 5-speed transmission allows speeds from 1.1 to 4.3 mph. Unit has eight cutting heights from 3/8 to 3 5/8 inches.

Circle No. 269

YAZOO/KEES 800/723-9496 www.yazookees.com

The high-wheel mower from Yazoo/Kees, Jackson, MS, provides a quality cut in the toughest of conditions. Available with a 22-, 24- or 26-inch cutting deck, it is made of 11-gauge steel for durability. Either a 6-hp or 8.5-hp Briggs & Stratton engine, mounted between the drive wheels, provides balanced weight distribution for positive traction and increased maneuverability. Large-diameter pneumatic drive tires are mounted on chrome bicycle-style extra-strength steel spoke rims. Knobby tire drive tires flex and clean themselves as you mow.

Circle No. 270

www.landscapegroup.com for online LM Reports, with direct links to manufacturers and their products.