Bush Hog 762H accepts either regular or heavy-duty buckets in 9-, 13-, 16-, 24- and 36-in. widths. Maximum reach is 9'6".

The Lowe Model 7 hydraulic trencher adds versatility to smaller skid steer loaders in the 800- to 1000-lb. class.

CAN YOU DIG IT?

Trenchers and backhoes get down and dirty

By CURT HARLER/ Contributing Editor

Whether you’re installing irrigation pipe or running accent lighting along a pathway, use the right equipment to speed the job, minimize damage to surrounding turf, shorten the time to refill the open trench and cut down on reseeding or sodding.

Backhoes can be compared to chain saws: best used on big jobs (like placing irrigation mains or digging deep, long cuts for drainage pipe). They can dig down farther and faster than other machines, but count on spending some time filling in the trench and hand-raking a lot of soil and stone left behind after the excavated ground is replaced.

On the other hand, trenchers are like hand-saws. They leave a smaller cut than a backhoe and are much gentler on the surrounding turf. In fragile turfgrass areas or in residential areas where a backhoe is too noisy or too cumbersome, a trencher is likely to be the tool of choice.

Mini-trenchers are like pruning shears. They can get into even the smallest area. Lightweight and maneuverable, they weigh about half the standard walk-behind trencher’s 700 to 1,000 pounds. That makes mini-trenchers super for short-run jobs.

Brown Manufacturing
800/633-8909
www.brownmfgcorp.com

The BedEdger F-780H Trencher is designed for defining landscape beds or installing plastic or steel edging, saving time up to 90% over a shovel. Manufactured in Ozark, AL, the BedEdger is equipped with steerable rear wheels and an 8-hp Honda engine.

Burkeen Manufacturing Co.
800/647-9824
www.burkeen.com

From Olive Branch, MS, the Burkeen B-30 Combination Trencher/Vibratory Plow has a 30-hp diesel engine, features a two-speed transmission, plow self-centering system, sod cutter, bolt-on plow blades and a lifetime warranty. It is equipped with a rotary boring unit for tunneling under streets or sidewalks, a trencher attachment for trenching in large-diameter pipe or opening pits for boring applications, and a rotary-boring unit for installing
The Burkeen B-30 Combination Trencher/Vibratory Plow

products, made in Cape Coral, FL, dig at depths ranging from 6 to 12 in. The push-forward disc blade type trencher can dig 20 to 30 ft. per minute. The 900-lb. winch design

elite offers four trenchers.

and roller wheel body allows the machine to roll up and down easier.

and roller wheel body allows the machine to roll up and down easier.

Elite Trenchers

www.elitetrenchers.com

Elite Trenchers

www.elitetrenchers.com

controls, outrigger guides, cushioned seat, replaceable bushings and 160-degree rotation. Digging depths range from 6 ft. to 12 ft.

Circle No. 255

Ingersoll Equipment Co. Inc.

920/582-5000

www.ingersoll-inc.com

Ingersoll's 6018 LBH Loader Backhoe, from Winneconne, WI, features power steering, single-lever shifting for forward and reverse, speed control with a right-mounted foot pedal and single lever control of the swing and boom. The lower

Melroe Ingersoll-Rand

701/241-8700

www.bobcat.com

The Bobcat 607 Backhoe Attachment has a digging depth of nearly 8 feet and operates with Bobcat 751, 753, 763, 773 and 863 Skid Steer Loaders. It has a single bucket mounting position for straight wall and power digging. Standard 6-inch curb clearance and

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Toro SiteWork Systems with backhoe

Steiner Turf Equipment Inc.
330/828-0200
www.steiner turf.com

Steiner Trencher TH300 features a visible depth indicator, variable depth control, and quick chain tension adjustment. The product, made in Dalton, OH, has a debris-free trench with a scraper, a front mount and a quick hitch. The TH300 also has a heat-treated carbide tip chain. It attaches to a Steiner tractor.

Circle No. 263

Thomas Equipment Ltd.
800/561-5623
www.thomasloaders.com

The Bh1108 Side Shift Backhoe Attachment has a narrow profile, a vertical stabilizer design and side shift capability, for work close to walls and obstructions. It offers internal or external control systems. Internal controls allow you to sit inside the loader cab, out of the weather and controls have easy access and flip up and out of the way allowing easy entry and exit from the loader cab. External control provides visibility to the full 8.5 ft. digging depth.

Circle No. 264

Toro
800/476-9673
www.toro.com

Toro SiteWork Systems includes the Dingo compact utility loader and more than 35 attachments including a trencher and backhoe. The Bloomington, MN, company’s Dingo is 42-in. wide, and fits through four-foot gateways allowing it to take hydraulic power to areas previously open only to hand labor. The trencher attachment digs trenches up to 3 ft. deep and up to 12 in. wide.

Circle No. 265

Vermeer Manufacturing Company
888/VERMEER
www.vermeer.com

Vermeer’s V-8550A Hydrostatic Trencher/Plow has a 90-hp Cummins engine, a backfill blade with a floating position and patented creep override in forward and reverse. Made in Pella, IA, the V-8550A features higher torque curve and improved performance. An enclosed wet disc service and parking brake automatically apply when the engine stops and an operator presence system shuts down the machine when the operator leaves the seat.

Circle No. 266

Woods Equipment Company
800/289-3067
www.woodsonline.com

Woods Groundbreaker Backhoes are available in 6.5- to 9-ft. digging depths. The products, manufactured in Rockford, IL, are available for three-point mounting on tractors ranging from 15 to 70 hp. They also mount on most skid steer machines. Subframe kits allow easy mounting of the Groundbreaker series on more than 50 compact tractor models.

Circle No. 267

Yazoo Kees Inc.
800/723-9496
www.yazookees.com

Yazoo Kees, Jackson, MS, has improved the Millennium Series Digital Trencher/loader/backhoe models: the Dominator M2208, Dominator Diesel M2208D and the Tiger M2008. Dominators have a 22-hp Kohler Command engine. The Tiger comes with a 20-hp Kohler Command engine.

Circle No. 268