SAWS THAT CUT DOWN TOUGH JOBS

By CURT HARLER/Contributing Editor

Like any other piece of mechanical equipment, performance and safe operation are among the key buying factors for chain saws. When a professional like Keith Carracher is in the market for a saw, he is looking for one thing: a durable machine that will hold up for the tough workouts a professional gives the saw daily.

Carracher is operations manager for Complete Property Maintenance (CPM), Coconut Creek, FL. CPM offers a full line of property maintenance services to customers along southeast Florida. They do everything from fertilization and pesticide application, to irrigation and tree work. This may include standard trimming or the removal of mature trees.

CPM employs 150, and there are about 15 chain saws in regular use by CPM’s workers. “We’ve tried every brand,” he says, adding that Stihl is his favorite. Carracher is convinced that Stihl’s oiling system is superior to other brands. He’s impressed that the company puts oilers both at the pump and in the bar itself.

“When we look for a saw, it depends on the type of trimming we expect to do,” Carracher continues. “You want to have various saws for various jobs.” A Class I or Class II trimming job requires a saw with a shorter bar and lighter weight, something more nimble for the operator to use and one which can safely be maneuvered.

For take-downs, he looks for a larger saw with a longer bar — something in the 30-in. range.

If you’re in the market for one or more saws, check out the latest offerings presented here. You’re bound to find an appropriate workhorse that can handle jobs from simple pruning to complete tree removal.

continued on page 48
JOHN DEERE
chain saws from John Deere, Re-
www.deere.com
800/537-8233
for delimbing, pruning or cutting
search Triangle Park, NC, are ideal
firewood. The 200 is powered by a
33 cc and the 230 by a 38 cc Pow-
erstroke engine with vertical cylinder
designed for durability and effi-
ciency. Either of these 10-lb. units
have a 21.2-cc engine, a 10-in. bar
and weighs 9.5 lbs. The 2433 has a
23.6-cc engine, 12- or 14-in. bar and
weighs 9.9 lbs. Both are covered by a
one-year commercial warranty. Also
available is a hedge clipper and circu-
saw accessory.
Circle No. 251

GREENLEE-FAIRMONT-
TEXTRON 800/435-0786
www.greenlee.textron.com
The H6200B chainsaw from
Greenlee-Fairmont-Textron, Rock-
ford, IL, has an 18-in. bar that can
cut up to 15 in. in a single pass.
Ideal for large trimming
applications, it features a
two-step trigger, wide
trigger guard, knuckle guard,
full-cover sprocket guard and anti-
kickback bar and chain. The Super
Spool selector control, rugged gear
motor and automatic chain oiler
make this saw reliable and operator-
friendly.
Circle No. 252

HUSQVARNA
800/HUSKY62
www.husqvarna.com
New this summer is the 346XP
chain saw from Husqvarna, Char-
lotte, NC. Designed for users who
need speed, it operates at 14,700
no-load rpm, weighs 10.6 lbs. and
features air injection, LowVib and
CoolFlo clutch. It has a 2.5-hp, 45-
cc engine and has a capacity of
just over a pint of fuel. Also avail-
able is the new 325P4 pole chain
saw. With its rear
handle, a
user can reach limbs up to 13 ft.
without using a ladder. It is inter-
changeable with the 300 Series line
of pole hedge trimmers, and is pow-
ered by a 24.5-cc, 1.2-hp engine.
Circle No. 253

ECHO
800/432-ECHO
The CS-3450 features a standard
16-in. bar and chain with 12 or 14 in.
available. Lightweight and powerful,
it uses the Slope Advance Ignition
System. It develops a maximum
12,000 no-load RPMs. Also check
out the new PPSR-2122 and PPSR-
2433 Power Pruners from Echo, Lake
Zurich, IL. Telescoping and extended
shafts keep operators away from the
saw and falling branches. The 2122
has a 21.2-cc engine, a 10-in. bar
and weighs 9.5 lbs. The 2433 has a
23.6-cc engine, 12- or 14-in. bar and
weighs 9.9 lbs. Both are covered by a
one-year commercial warranty. Also
available is a hedge clipper and circu-
saw accessory.
Circle No. 250

MAKITA
714/522-8088
www.makita.com
Leading a group of brand new
saws from Makita USA, La Mirada,
CA, is the DCS34 general purpose
chain saw. The 34 has a 14-in. bar,
weighs 10 lbs. and is powered
by a 12,200 rpm 33-cc engine. The
DCS540 features an 18-in. bar,
weighs 10.4 lbs. and its 54-cc
engine generates 12,500 rpm.
The DCS6000I-21 is a 21-in.
unit, weighing 13.2 lbs. and its 60-
cc engine develops 13,000 rpm. All use a 3/8-in. pitch, .05 gauge chain. Check the increased distance between front and rear handles for more natural arm positioning and improved sight lines.

Circle No. 254

REDMAX
800/291-8251
sales@redmax.com

The RedMax Pro Series saws, made by Komatsu Zenoah America in Norcross, GA, come in four models. The G310TS has a 14-in. bar and 30.1-cc engine; the G455AVS has a 16-in. bar and 45.1-cc engine; the G561AVS has 16-, 18- or 20-in. bars and a 53.2-cc engine; and the G621AVS is available with 16-, 18-, 20- or 24-in. bars and a 62-cc engine. All are equipped with Oregon type chains and feature solid state ignition and an automatic, gear type oil pump. They come with a 90-day commercial warranty.

Circle No. 255

SOLO
800/765-6462
www.solo-germany.com

The Solo 651SP comes with a 15-, 18- or 20-in. bar and chain. Made in Germany and distributed by Solo in Newport News, VA, it is powered by the 51-cc Solo two-cycle engine. The unit weighs under 11 lb. but offers an antivibration system, adjustable oiler, two piston rings, primer and half-throttle automatic. Quiet and powerful, it is ergonomically designed for easy handling and operation, making it ideal for debarking or thinning medium-size trees.

Circle No. 256

SHINDAIWA
800/521-7733
www.shindaiwa.com

The Model 488 from Shindaiwa, Tualatin, OR, has a full antivibration damping system to reduce operator fatigue. An adjustable automatic oil pump runs off the clutch to regulate oil consumption. It can be fitted with 16- to 20-in. bars and has a 47.9-cc, 3.5-hp engine. Dry weight is 10.1 lbs. The saw comes with a boot-mounted carburetor for protection against vapor lock. Chain catcher is standard equipment.

Circle No. 257

STIHL
800/GO-STIHL
www.stihlusa.com

The Pro 036QS from Stihl, Virginia Beach, VA, is the first chain saw with a triple activated chain brake. Either inertia, front hand guard or rear handle will activate the chain brake. The 036 has a 61.5-cc engine, weighs 13.2 lbs. and comes with 16-, 18- or 20-in. Rollomatic chain. With an exclusive side-access chain tensioner and an easy access air filter, which makes maintenance simple. Both come with 90-day warranty.

Circle No. 258

TANAKA
243/395-3900
www.tanakapowerequipment.com

The Tanaka TCS-3401 limbing saw from Tanaka Power, Kent, WA, features excellent power-to-weight ratio. Powered by a 34-cc, 1.8-hp engine, it weighs under 8 lbs. The saw can be fitted with a 14- or 16-in. Oregon bar and chain. It has a heavy duty antivibration system, AirForce air filtration, cold weather switch, climbing ring, Walbro carburetor and priming pump. It is covered by a full year warranty for professional use, five years on the electric ignition module.

Circle No. 259

Stihl 036 is the first saw with a triple activated chain brake.

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