The tractor factor

BY CURT HARLER / CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

When Cherokee Plantation head greenskeeper Chris Johnson goes shopping for a tractor, his first priority is matching the unit to the kinds of jobs it will do.

"Will you use it for the PTO; as a forklift, because you need a front bucket?" he asks. "Do you need 4-wheel drive? What kind of tires?" One constant, however, is a diesel engine.

Cherokee Plantation, Yemassee, SC, is a new Donald Steele-designed golf course started in August 1998. Growing occurred the following June, and play began in September 1999.

"I look at the jobs that require a tractor and then try to find as universal a tractor as I can," Johnson says. Currently, they have one large 45-hp tractor and two smaller units in the 30- to 33-hp range that are used daily to pull mowers and perform other typical jobs. He draws a distinction between jobs for tractors and those for carts, tractors being able to do heavy-duty work like hauling dirt or moving sod.

He is particular about tires. Since one tractor was purchased when the course was under construction, it has off-road tires. But those will be replaced with turf tires to minimize the impact of sharp turns.

Cherokee Plantation uses New Holland equipment. Johnson likes 4-wheel drive and New Holland's Super-Steer feature which allows a zero-radius turn... just as long as the operator is careful not to tear the turf.

AMATEX, INC.
888/988-4453
The Hurlimann 435 Prince with loader is powered by a 35-hp 4-cylinder engine. It comes with 12 forward/12 reverse shuttle-shift transmission and standard 4WD. Marketed in North America by Amatex, Milwaukee, WI, it is part of a full line of tractors in the 25- to 190-hp range. Also available in the Prince series are the 35-hp 435 and the 45-hp 445. All have 540/1000 rpm PTOs.

What to look for when buying

► Match tractor size/configuration to the jobs you need it to do
► Consider four-wheel drive, zero-turn, PTO requirements
► Tractors are used best to handle heavy-duty work
► Make sure tires are suited to the types of landscape work you'll do
The Eicher 364 from Belarus

BELARUS
414/355-2000
The Eicher 364 is a 39-hp utility tractor with dual-stage clutch to provide live PTO, power steering, a fuel-efficient engine, differential lock and ROPS. Manufactured in India and marketed from Milwaukee, WI, by Belarus Machinery, it has an air-cooled diesel engine, 3-pt. hitch with draft/position control and a lift capacity of 2,213 lbs. Unit has disk brakes.

JOHN DEERE
800/537-8233
www.deere.com
The John Deere 790 compact utility tractor is designed for people on tight budgets. It can handle a variety of projects like mowing, loader/backhoe, post hole digging or snow removal. It has 30 gross engine hp and 25-hp PTO. It comes in either a 2WD or 4WD version, with power steering and dual-stage dry clutch standard on the 4WD. Both have a selectable system for rear and mid PTOs, which can be used alone or simultaneously. Sliding gear transmission has eight forward and two reverse speeds.

KUBOTA TRACTOR
888/458-2682
www.kubota.com
The Grand-L Ten line from Kubota Tractor, Torrance, CA, has been upgraded to include three transmission choices. The 4610 is the newest of the series. Pick a fully synchronized main and shuttle transmission for economy and reliability; glide shift transmission gives clutchless shift on-the-go operation; and the Feather-Step hydrostatic transmission reduces amount of foot pressure needed to depress pedals and cuts shock when making sudden stops or direction changes. All units are powered by the Kubota E-TEVSC diesel.

MTD PRODUCTS
330/225-2600
www.cubcadet.com
The 7360SS Cub Cadet compact tractor from MTD, Cleveland, OH, is the top of the 7000 line. It features a 36-hp, 4-cylinder, liquid cooled diesel engine; fully-synchronized shuttle shift with two speed ranges, differential lock and 4WD; hydraulically actuated PTO clutch; and hydrostatic power steering. Adjustable high-back seat, back-lit dash panel, and 3-position tilt steering wheel assure operator comfort. Optional back hoe, loader and rear mower are available.

Circle 123
Who wants to do a Million SQUARE
feet or dozens of 5000 sq ft lawns with ease?

Before you give your final answer
phone a friend at Perma-Green 800.346.2001
or www.ride-onspreader.com
for a free video and Owners Report
Because YOUR business is not a game!
Three new models — the 18.5-hp TC18, 21-hp TC21 and the deluxe 21-hp TC21D — mean there now are nine models in the Boomer line from New Holland, New Holland, PA. Units range from 18.5 to 33 hp. The TC18 has a two-range gearbox, while the TC21 has three range — better for operators who tend to run long hours in a single gear. For infinitely variable speed without clutch or shift lever, a hydrostatic transmission is available. Units have a 540-rpm rear PTO and a live 2000-rpm mid-PTO on models with hydrostatic transmission.

The Turf Cruiser from Snapper, McDonough, GA, gives landscapers the choice between gas or diesel engines — a 23-hp OHV liquid-cooled 3-cylinder Kubota or a 21-hp liquid cooled diesel Kubota. Both have electric ignition. Single-lever joystick controls two Eaton hydrostatic transmissions with integrated gear reduction. Chevron-style drive tires provide maximum traction and stability. Attachments are simple with Qwik-O-Nect system.

The Z Master Z350 series from Toro, Bloomington, MN, is based on a tractor powered by either a 20-hp or 25-hp Kohler Command Pro air-cooled engine with electronic key ignition. From there, its Quick-Mount hitch system converts it into a mower with decks from 44 inches to 98 inches; a dozer with 54-in. blade; a two-stage 36-in. snowthrower; a debris blower; or a 47-in. rotary broom. A simple connection allows implements to slide onto the hitch and easily lock in place.

The Power King 1600 Series from Yazoo/Kees, Jackson, MS, are shaft-driven, heavy-duty garden tractors. Both are powered by a 22-hp Kohler Command V-twin engine with hydrostatic transmission. The UT622HV includes foot-control tranny, front hydraulic ports and a front PTO to drive snow blower, broom or mower deck. Both have 1-year commercial warranty.

The LandTrac 280 and 360 from Long Agribusiness, Tarboro, NC, are both powered by Mitsubishi Indirect Injection diesel engines and have electro-hydraulic PTO clutch operated by a switch on the dash. The 280 is a 28-hp, 91.5-cubic inch unit with 27-hp PTO; the 360 has 36 hp, 107.3 cubes, and develops 33 PTO hp. Both transmissions have 12 forward and six reverse, and a fully synchronized four-speed main gear shift.