

lm reports

Chippers shred big jobs down to size

BY CURT HARLER/ CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

The grounds at the Griffith Estate, Lake Geneva, WI, are well groomed. Lovely plantings and huge oak trees give way to the lake with its piers and boats. While Richard Pratt, estate manager, appreciates the charming setting, he also knows it is his job to keep the property beautiful at all times. Part of that responsibility includes cleaning up leaves and branches and turning them into mulch.

He had used a couple of older Toro vacuums to clean up the area around the five houses on the estate, but says he needed a heavier machine with shredding ability. For that job, he uses a White YB 950 (see product right) and a smaller YB 550. "Always make sure you have a self-propelled machine," Pratt advises.

His second piece of buying advice is to be aware of the setting where the machine will be used. "You can't get a machine that has too big a throat if you expect it to work in tight spots," he says. There are many such spots on the 61-acre estate. The branches are shredded and

mulched. Later, the mulch is piled around trees.

Lastly, he looks for a reliable dealer. "I look for a dealer I know, one who will stand behind the equipment," Pratt says. In his case, that is Jeff Weiss of Rock County Lawn & Sport. "Since he's also a friend, I know he'll stand behind me," Pratt continues. It's good to have a solid dealer nearby and a manufacturer who is in the business for the long term. Several firms that were actively marketing chipper/shredders at the start of 1999 are now out of the business, although two of them continue to manufacture other products. In none of the cases did the manufacturers complain of undue regulation or concern over safety issues. Rather, they said, the market had consolidated, dwindling to the point where it no longer was profitable for them to stick with their chipper line.

Still, quite a few companies are actively marketing to the landscape industry. Check out the latest variety of chippers and shredders from the companies listed.



Richard Pratt's pointers

- Look for a self-propelled model.
- ► Make sure the machine's size will fit in tight spots on the property.
- Work with a reliable dealer.

AGRI-FAB 217/728-8388

www.agri-fab.com

For big cutting and cleanup jobs, check the Chip-N-Vac from Agri-Fab, Sullivan, IL. Powered by an 8-hp Tecumseh engine, they have attached shredder to reduce branches and twigs to fine mulch. Pickup is speedy through the 6-in. diameter spiroflex hose. Optional remote hose kit gives extended reach, keeping the tractor on paved paths while extending the working reach. Circle no. 250

GOOSSEN INDUSTRIES 800/228-6542

www.goossen.com

Chew up limbs up to 5-in. diameter and shred leaves or brush into a decorative mulch with Goossen Chipper/Shredders, made in Beatrice, NE. Three models are available: CS1000, a 540-pto unit; CS5100, with a 13-hp Honda gas engine; and the CS6000, with an 18-hp Honda gas engine. Blower and vacuum attachments are available. All have hinged housing for easy access to the cutting

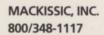
drum, a shredder cover to prevent material from kicking back, folding safety door on the chute and 3/4-in. machined steel chipper plates.

Circle No. 251 GRAVELY

800/GRAVELY

The Pro Chip 12108 from Gravely, Brillion, WI, claims to be the only 12-in. capacity 90-degree cut chipper in the industry. It features a hinged infeed table and a 15 X17-in. throat that eliminates the need to trim debris. The unit is easy to maintain with simple access to cutting knives, bed knives and serviceable engine parts. The unit has a 108-hp turbocharged diesel engine and a 280-degree swivel chute.

Circle No. 252



The SC260 chipper/shredder from MacKissic, Parker Ford, PA, chips logs up to 4 in. in diameter through the self-feeding chute. It will shred debris and branches up to one inch in



Mackissic self-feeding tube

the large-capacity, top feeding shredder hopper, featuring a heavy-duty 18-in. by 3/4-in. flywheel



Gravely Pro Chip 12108

with two 5.5in. chipper knives and 48 freeswinging shredder hammers. A 16-hp twin cylinder Briggs & Stratton Vanguard engine powers it.

Circle No. 253

MANTIS 800/366-6268

Get three tools in one with the BSV from Mantis, Albuquerque, NM. This blower-shredder-vacuum combo has a

21.2-cc gas engine that meets California standards. Patented four-blade metal shredder (located in front of fan to reduce clogs) effectively reduces materials at a 12:1 ratio. Fabric collection bag holds two bushels of shredded waste. Unit weighs only 12.5 lbs.

Circle No. 254

MELROE 701/241-8742

www.bobcat.com

Melroe's Bobcat Chipper attachment allows users to reduce wood waste volume by a factor of 10 to 1. The waste reduction complies with local regulations that prohibit wood burning in local areas. The attachment fits Bobcat 763H and 863H skid-steer loaders and chips branches and tree limbs up to 5 in. in diameter. The attachment can form wood-chip piles 10 feet from the chipping point, making set-up possible in almost any location.

Circle No. 255
PATRIOT



Bobcat chipper attachment

800/798-CHIP

The Pro-Series CSV-3090H and CSV-3100 chipper-shredders from Patriot, Milwaukee, WI have extras like a low-oil alert and two-stage air filtering. They feature 3-in. chippers, triplate rotors and choice of a 10-hp Tecumseh XL/C on the



Goossen makes three models of chipper/shredders.

lm reports

3100 or a 9-hp Honda engine on the 3090H. Both handle 1in. diameter waste, compacting it 20:1 and have a 2.5 bushel bag.

Circle No. 256

SIMPLICITY 414/377-5430

www.simplicitymfg.com

Choose from three models of chipper/shredder from Simplicity, Port Washington, WI: the 5/14 model, with 5-hp Briggs & Stratton engine; the 6/14E with a 5.5-hp OHV Tecumseh engine and electric start; or the 8/14, with an 8-hp Tecumseh. The laminated steel rotor will not warp or flex over time. The rotor has two J-hammers

which pull material into the cutting chamber where triangular swinging hammers (with six cutting surfaces) continue the job. All models chip limbs to 3 in, in diameter.

Circle No. 257

SUNDANCE 970/339-9322

sundance@oneimage.com

The Kid II from Sundance, Greeley, CO, gobbles up wet material with up to 70% moisture content. Its exclusive hydraulic drive feed system controls material flow to the extra-heavy duty rotor and hammers. When engine drops below 1,500 rpm, a switch stops both the feeder assembly and roll until things pick up again. The heart of the unit is a 1700-lb. balanced 32-in. rotor with 44 hammers.

Circle No. 258

VERMEER 888/VERMEER

www.vermeer.com

Labor-saving loader on the BC 2000 Brush Chipper lets operators chip a high volume of trees faster and more efficiently. Powered by a 200-HP 6-cylinder Cummins 6BTA5.9 engine, the drum-style BC 2000 from Vermeer, Pella, IA, is designed for tough jobs. Two joystick controls make loader easy to operate. The AutoFeed II system automatically feeds brush steadily.

Circle No. 259

WHITE OUTDOOR 330/225-2600

www.whiteoutdoor.com

The 1999 9-hp YB-950 Chipper/Vac from White Outdoor, Cleveland, OH, is a self-propelled, 6-speed unit with 3-in. chipper chute capacity. Nine rotating flail knives, 10 stationary shredding knives, and two chipper knives receive material from the 26-in. adjustable intake on the YB-950. Circle No. 260

WOOD-PRO PRODUCTS 973/992-8514

The AVP (All Vegetation Processor) from the Wood-Pro Products, VC Marketing, Roseland, NJ, is a one-hopper solution for everything from leaves to limbs up to 6-in. in diameter. Large 30-in. diameter processor chamber is dynamically balanced to eliminate vibration during operation.

Circle No. 261

WOODS EQUIPMENT 800/319-6637

www.woodsonline.com

The Model 5000 general purpose, PTO-driven chipper/shredder from Woods Equipment, Oregon, IL, is big. Its four steel chipping blades can chip up to 5-in. sticks. Its 34 self-sharpening, reversible, serrated shredding knives can shred up to 1-in. The unit requires a 12 to 30-hp tractor with 540 rpm PTO, and the hopper is a comfortable 30x20-in. with a 12-in. wide throat. The 18-in. rotor works at 2000 rpm.

Circle No. 262



Vermeer's 1800A chipper

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ask the expert

BY BALAKRISHNA RAO

Fungal growth on mulch

Once in a while, we find a lot of different fungal growth on mulch beds in the landscape. Are there any fungicides to manage the ugly mushrooms and other fungal growth on mulches?

- MINNESOTA

he mulch beds can occasionally support the growth of various fungi such as slime molds, shotgun fungus, bird's nest fungus and different kinds of mushrooms and plant pathogens. Usually, it's caused by the use of fresh or dry woody mulches obtained from trees that readily decompose.

If used properly, mulches and compost can help improve soil structure, moisture retention, drainage, plant health and control of weeds. They can also help lower soil temperature in summer, provide insulation to roots and protect from cold in winter months. These organic materials can also inhibit certain soil-borne root disease-causing fungal agents. They can help increase beneficial bacteria and fungi such as mycorrhizae. However, if mulched improperly at a depth of four inches to six inches instead of an ideal depth of one and one-half to two inches, the result is the development of nuisance fungal growth, inhibition of beneficial microorganisms and improper maintenance of water and temperature.

Sometimes, little can be done to manage nuisance fungi other than to turn the mulch into the surface soil layer, followed by watering to soak the mulch. Reports from The Ohio State University indicate

that another option is to remove suspect mulch and place it in a heap after thorough wetting to allow for optimum composting. The temperature may reach 110° F to 160° F, and this will kill nuisance fungi. They also suggest that if fresh mulch is placed on top of the mulch with a past history of nuisance fungi, the problem may reoccur in future years.

Where feasible, purchase a composted product that is low in wood content. Avoid fresh wood chips. These can be used after composting. Make sure to soak the mulches heavily after application. Avoid applying more than two inches. Mulches and composts managed in this way can provide many of the horticultural benefits to trees and shrubs. This will also help reduce the establishment of nuisance fungal growth or plant diseases. There are no practical and effective fungicides for managing nuisance fungi on mulches. New fungicides, such as Heritage, might help manage the problem, but this needs further research.

Controlling pine scale

Some clients are having severe pine needle scale on pines. Can we use oil and control the scales? We believe it may be too late for this season. What can we do now? I appreciate any recommendations.

- NEW YORK

It's a little too late to obtain good results controlling pine needle scale using horticultural oil. The ideal timing would be from mid-May through the end of June, and again from mid-August through late September. Treat when young crawlers (nymphs) are emerging and before they settle down and develop a new cover (testa) for best control. All other timing applications may provide variable results.

We don't know the efficacy of horticultural oil after the second instar settles and eventually develops into an adult scale. Although oil can smother and suffocate the scales (when the testa is mature), the oil may not penetrate well. The ability for oil to go around and under the scale cover needs further research.

Before treating, check and study the developmental stage of the scale. Gently flip open a few scales from random needles. If the scale has a single female, there may still be some chance that oil may provide some level of control. However, if you find several tiny egg masses which look like jelly beans, the oil may not do a good job of managing the scales.

If you are trying to provide treatments now, first check the developmental stages of scales and keep good notes and update us about your findings. It may be a good a idea to do this in a small area to learn more about the oil's role in managing pine scale in autumn. Read and fol-

low all label instructions for best re-

sults.

Manager of Research and Technical Development for the Davey Tree Expert Co., Kent, Ohio SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO: "Ask the Expert" Landscape Management; 7500 Old Oak Blvd.; Cleveland, OH 44130, or email: sgibson@advanstar.com. Please allow two to three months for an answer to appear.



Compliant trimmer

RedMax has introduced the BCX 2600DL. a professional, lightweight string trimmer, powered by RedMax's new four-cycle CARB II compliant engine. The new



26.2-cc, overhead valve, 4-cycle engine drives a straight, solid steel driveshaft connected to a 4-in commercial grade bumpand-go cutting head. RedMax's ergonomically designed loop handle is positioned on the shaft for optimum balance and reduced operator fatigue.

For more information, call 716/924-4570 / circle no. 263

Adjustable spraying nozzle

The Toro 15ADJ nozzle, which features an adjustable arc from 0° to 330°, is designed for irrigation contractors to adjust spray

patterns on small turf landscapes. The nozzle also in-



For more information, visit the company's Web site at www.toro.com / circle no. 264

Riding mowers have independent suspension

The Ferris ProCut Z now features IS®, the first independent suspension system for the riding mower. IS® independent suspension minimizes operator aches and pains, extends machine life and allows the operator to go faster for increased productivity.



ground for improved traction and a smoother, more comfortable ride. For more information, call

800/933,6175, ext. 267 / circle no. 265

Backpack blower

The John Deere BP50 backpack blower features 185-mph air velocity, 470-cfm air volume at the end of the tube and a 48.6 cc engine. The blower comes equipped



with a soft-tone muffler system, a pistol throttle and a 54-oz. fuel tank. Operating at 7,000 rpm, the blower has a 69.5 dBA rating at 50 feet.

For more information, call 919/788-0877 / circle no. 266

Tree tie

The Crowell Corp. introduces the Cro-Nel self-sealing tree tie. The tree tie uses the same concept as their extremely popular Cro-Nel Plant & Garden Tie. Both ties consist of green polyethylene film laminated to microfoam with a self-seal coating on the foam surface. This coating allows the foam to seal to itself only and not to the products being tied.

For more information, call 302/998-0557 / circle no. 267

Commercial-grade snowthrower

Simplicity Manufacturing Inc. is offering a new Easy Turn feature on its two-stage, commercial-grade snowthrowers that will make it faster and to clear snow. The Easy Turn differential release enhances snowthrower maneuverability for exceptional performance.

For more information, call 262/284-8706 / circle no. 268

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Skid steers with SuperBoom

New Holland's new LS Series skid steers feature the SuperBoom lift linkage, a device that provides a vertical lift path, which



keeps the load in view at all times; a long wheelbase; and a low center of gravity. Other improvements include a new electronic instrument cluster with improved operator features, a security lock-out system and new hydrostatic transmission pumps.

For more information, call 800/825-4837, <u>www.newholland.com/na</u> / circle no. 269

John Deere utility vehicle

The John Deere ProGator utility vehicle, available in 23.5-hp diesel and 26-hp gas



versions, features a five-speed, synchronized transmission and a one-piece axle for rear-wheel support. The vehicle also features front and rear dual spring leaf suspension, a turning radius of 33 in. and a 2,650-lb. load capacity.

For more information, call 919/877-0877 / circle no. 270

Fescue blend resists disease

Triplet, a turf-type tall fescue blend from Jacklin Seed/Simplot Turf & Horticulture, has genetic characteristics geared toward golf courses, residential and business park lawns, xeriscaping, playgrounds, parks and athletic fields. A semi-open canopy helps Triplet withstand drought, heat and close mowing. It also improves resistance to diseases such as brown patch and net blotch.

For more information, call 208/773-7581 / circle no. 271

Power engines

The new 52-in. TriVantage deck and powerful new engine options makes the Exmark Lazer Z HP faster and more produc-



tive than ever. The mower has either a 20-hp or 23-hp Kohler Command Pro engine or the 23-hp Kawasaki engine. The Exmark has ground speeds of up to 9.5 mph forward and 4 mph in reverse.

For more information, call 402/423-5447 / circle no. 272

The Bobcat guarantee

Bobcat's midsize mowers, which include the gear drive, hydrostatic drive and variable speed, feature a three-year no-crack guarantee on cutting decks and a two-



year no-fail warranty on deck spindles. The mowers also feature zero radius turning.

For more information, call 414/637-1000 / circle no. 273

Ornamental wire fencing

A selection of galvanized ornamental wire fencing is now available from Hutchison. The fencing can be used for perimeter fencing, flower garden borders and vegetable gardens.

For more information, call 303/287-2826, <u>www.hutchison-inc.com</u> / circle no. 274

New options for riding rotary mowers

Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products has introduced new engine, cutting deck and attachment choices for its Ransomes Front Line 700 Series riding rotary mowers.



Ransomes' Front Line 723D is powered by a 23-hp, liquid-cooled Perkins diesel engine, while the 725 features a 25-hp, air-cooled Kohler gas engine. Both models offer a choice of six new cutting decks and adapter kits to install a snow blower, snow blade or rotary brushes.

For more information call 888/922-TURF / circle no. 275

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For more information, call 414/637-1000 / circle no. 276



Snow alert

Sensor's Ice/Snow Alert system is designed for landscapers who plow snow in the off season and need accurate



information on snow buildup. The electronic unit is installed outside and sends visual or audible signals regarding snow buildup to an indoor monitor. The unit features temperature display, automatic reset, test button and temp. threshold setting.

For more information, call 603/224-0167 / circle no. 277

Otterbine spray aerators

Otterbine's Concept2 surface spray aerators are manufactured of stainless steel and thermoplastics, offering a fountain spray pattern and effective water quality management system. Otterbine offers an extensive produce line. A recent addition is the Instant Fountain. This 1/2- or 3/4-hp water feature is maintenance free and comes standard with three interchangeable spray patterns, a 1000-ft. cord, a power control center and a 24-hour on/off timer.

For more information, call 800/237-8837 / circle no. 278

Daytona ryegrass blend

Jacklin Seed /Simplot Turf & Horticulture's Daytona brand perennial ryegrass blend incorporates Advent, Monterey and TopGun varieties. The blend is suited for interseeding into established stands of bluegrass, fine fescue, tall fescue or perennial ryegrass that have been thinned or damaged by traffic, disease or environmental stress.

For more information, call 208/773-7581 / circle no. 279

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