

Blazing a Trail

These trailers leave tow-behinds in the stone age

BY CURT HARLER/CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

The days of trailers as nothing more than extended pick-up beds are behind us.

Today's landscape operations demand more of trailers than just a solid bed. Security — both for workers and for equipment — are key buying criteria.

As landscaping becomes a hotter specialty market, more companies are designing trailers with custom features for landscapers.

These features range from special holders for edgers or mowers to nifty lock-down systems that assure that the equipment will still be behind the truck when your crew gets out of the back yard.

Many trailers offer special leveling mechanisms. These mechanisms make the trailers safer to use while allowing easier access onto and off the trailer for heavy equipment like riding mowers.

Check out the products below. There is sure to be something to add to your spring budget.

BIL-JAX, INC.
800/527-5333
www.biljax.com

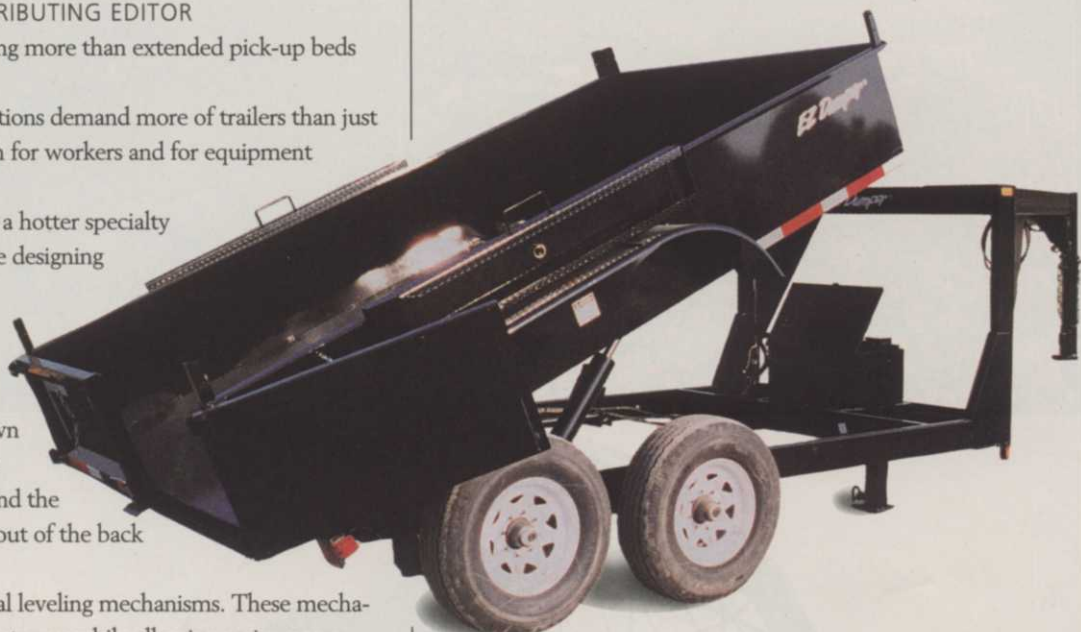
Haul up to 5,000-lbs. of trenchers, lifts, compactors, lawn mowers and more in the new Workforce Escalate equipment trailer from Bil-

Jax, Archbold, OH. Designed for safe, simple operation, the trailer's entire bed lowers to the ground, eliminating the need to tilt it. Ramp grade is only six degrees, allowing equipment with low ground clearance to be driven onto the trailer easily. Unit features tie-downs, heavy-duty powder coat finish and a low center of gravity for easy towing.

Circle #264

CURB-KING
800/937-2872
www.curb-king.com

Haul 4- to 20-ton loads in



Workforce Escalate equipment trailer

QUICK TIPS

- ▶ **Low-rise trailers are great for loading but not so hot where ground clearance is required.**
- ▶ **Look for easy tie-down locations.**
- ▶ **Check hitches for both strength and compatibility.**
- ▶ **Have new employees practice backing up in an open lot before sending them out on the road.**
- ▶ **Check for leveling features — level trailers are safer.**

this specially designed trailer from the Curb-King division of Tool Engineering & Manufacturing, Brigham City, UT. Heavy duty fenders double as walkways, and cut-away ends on the trailer provide easy loading into wheelbarrows without spillage.

Circle #265

DEANDE
609/771-0001

The 3500-L from Deande, Trenton, NJ comes in two models with a 12-ft. or 14-ft. bed. Unit is equipped with pressure-treated floor, tie off loops and rides on a Dexter 3500-lb., 4-in. drop axle. Also available is the SS7500, a 4-



The 3500-L from Deande

ton skid steer trailer with a 12-ft. bed, swing-down ramps, and 14-gauge diamond plate fenders. Includes drop-down stabilizer jacks.

Circle #266

JOHN DEERE
919/850-0123
www.deere.com

John Deere 22 Utility Trailer is compatible with the Gator utility vehicle, the 1800 utility vehicle or any larger model lawn and garden tractor. From Deere Commercial Equipment, Raleigh, NC, it features low profile and turf tires for easy travel on any kind of turf.

Circle #267

E-Z DUMPER PRODUCTS
888-DUMPERS
ezdumper@cvn.net

The low-profile 6812LP dump trailer from E-Z Dumper, Waynesboro, PA has full hydraulics, 10-gauge reinforced floor and two-way tailgate giving access to the 9990 GVW bed. Adjustable cou-

pler gives a level ride on any truck.

GREEN TOUCH INDUSTRIES
800/621-6919

There's no need to risk coming back to your landscaping truck only to find someone has swiped your tools. Green Touch, Jupiter, FL. offers individually lockable, coated steel Ultimate Racks and accessories for most pickup trucks.

LIFETIME PRODUCTS
800/369-5365

The elevating platform trailer from Lift-A-Load, Kewanee, IL raises from the ground to 52 in. high



Elevating platform trailer

while staying level. It will stop at any height for quick, convenient material transfer to trucks, ramps or ground level. Drop the trailer down to pass through low garage doors. Unit comes in either straight tongue or gooseneck hitch and in load capacities of 4,000-15,000 lbs.

Circle #270

OXLITE MANUFACTURING
800/256-2408
www.oxlite.com

Make easy work of loading mowers onto a pickup with the 98 and 98-C ramps from Oxlite, Henderson, LA. Easy to handle at only 21 lbs. per runner, the units have a 1000-lb. capacity. The 98-C is a hinged version of the 98. Other ramps are available with capacities of 3,000, 5,000, 7,000 and 10,000 lbs.

Circle #271

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www.power-trac.com

The 400-series trailer packages from Power Trac, Tazewell, VA come with customized brackets to hold attachments like planter drill heads and post hole diggers. Each comes with a 4-WD Power Trac with a 22-hp Robin or 25-hp Kohler Command engine. Packages have two toolboxes, 2-ton bottle jack, extra safety strap, filter and drain hose. Built-in safety stands at the rear of the machine keep trailer level. Exactly 30 attachments are available. **Circle #272**

RAY ENTERPRISES 800/962-1869

www.rayenterprise.com

Service equipment right in your

trailer. The Sharp-N-Lube from Ray Enterprises, Troy, OH is a fully enclosed unit which allows easy servicing of lawn equipment for customers or large users. Push mowers can be tilted for easy blade removal or lifted for servicing. Rotary blade grinder, oil vacuum system and tractor Multi-Lift are available. **Circle #273**

READING BODY WORKS 800/458-2226

www.readingbody.com

Stake and platform bodies from Reading Body Works, Reading, PA fit most size trucks and are made of durable, pressure-treated Southern Pine or steel. Body

lengths range from 8 to 24 ft.

Circle #274

SMITHCO 610/993-8181

The new Double Mow-n-Go PGM Trailer from Smithco, Wayne, PA carries two mowers loaded front-



Smithco's customized trailer

to-rear and is customized to carry all major brands. Its automatic lockdown, latching-bar system holds the mowers firmly.

Circle #275

WELLS CARGO 800/348-7553

www.wellscargo.com

The LS series landscaping trailer from Wells Cargo, Elkhart, IN is enclosed with standard features like exterior grade plywood sidewall liner, pressure treated plywood flooring and frame cross-members on 16-in. centers. Rear ramp door has a spring assist with a side entry door. **Circle #276**



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ask the expert

BY BALAKRISHNA RAO

Dying holly plants

What would cause twig dieback and blackish leaves on holly plants? The black discoloration is also found on twigs.

Some branches have small, raised bumps — probably related to some fungus.

What are these and how do we manage?

— MARYLAND

Twig dieback and discoloration on hollies may be caused by several fungi, such as *Phytophthora* sp., canker-causing fungi like *Phomopsis* sp., or *Gloeosporium* sp.

If the dieback is caused by *Phytophthora* sp., you should not see any fruiting bodies of the fungus on branches. The “raised bumps” are most likely the fruiting bodies of a canker-causing fungi.

Based on the description you have provided, the problem is probably related to *Phomopsis* sp. It is also possible that a given plant may be infected by several different opportunistic fungal pathogens.

For positive diagnosis, send plant tissue samples to a diagnostic clinic. Then, based on findings, provide corrective treatments as needed.

Prune and discard affected plant parts during dry periods. Disinfect pruning tools between cuts to minimize disease spread. Provide proper watering, mulching, fertilizing and pest management as needed to help improve plant health.

Dutch elm disease

I have four trees with Dutch elm disease (DED). What should I do? Can you help?

— ILLINOIS

The first step in disease management is proper diagnosis of the problem. If you suspect DED, look for characteristic field symptoms such as flagging in the crown and discoloration in the xylem. For further confirmation, send representative samples to private or state diagnostic laboratories. Based on the observations and recommendations, further action is needed.

Once the disease is confirmed as DED, the severity of the disease as evidenced by dieback and flagging symptoms in the crown needs to be determined. If it is less than 5% crown dieback, there is a good chance to prevent disease spread by proper sanitation and possible therapeutic fungicide treatments. Sanitation includes scouting and selective removal of diseased branches 10 ft. below the discoloration in the xylem. In some situations, this may require the removal of large branches. This sanitation and removal of infected tissue works well, provided the disease starts within the crown by bark beetle feeding in the branch crotch areas. However, if the disease is transmitted and spread by root graft between a diseased tree and a healthy tree, the removal of infected branches may not be effective because the fungus is systemic, moving upward inside the plant xylem tissue.

Another option is to inject trees having 5% or less crown symptoms with Arbotect or Alamo fungicides. These fungicides can provide two- to three-year protection if done correctly. Reports also indicate that if systemic fungicides are in the plants, the treatment for bark beetles using insecticides may not be needed.

The healthy trees within 40 ft. of diseased trees should be protected from root

graft transmission of pathogens by trenching to disrupt root grafts. In the past, Vapam fumigant treatment was used to disrupt root grafts, but it is no longer available for that purpose.

Valuable susceptible elms should be monitored periodically for the presence of DED. If the trees display more than 20% crown symptoms, it is difficult to protect them from DED. Ideally, the trees should be removed promptly to minimize disease spread to healthy trees. DED can be best managed by the proactive preventive approach. This includes periodic inspection of elms for flagging symptoms, prompt removal of infected plant parts, and, where feasible, fungicide treatments on a preventive basis once every three years. If the disease is detected, provide trenching as needed to prevent root grafts. Read and follow label specifications for best results.

Finding tree grates

Could you recommend a manufacturer of cast iron tree grates? A job requires them and I'm at a loss for a supplier.

— CALIFORNIA

Contact the following companies who reportedly make cast iron tree grates:

- Neenah Foundry, 800/423-8116
- M.H. Powell, 323/887-0037
- East Jordan Iron Works, 800/692-3549.



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.

ask the expert
BY BAKRISHNA RAO

'Fantastic' display

The grounds at Missouri's Fantastic Caverns have to be immaculate. Otherwise, over 130,000 people visiting yearly would take the maintenance crew to task

Rarely do grounds maintenance crew members get to say that 130,000 people see their work every year. But most grounds crews don't have ancient caverns running underneath their green space.

Doug Campbell, maintenance supervisor at Fantastic Caverns, does. The caverns lie beneath the rolling Ozark hills just north of Springfield, MO. Thousands come each year to ride the jeep-drawn trams on a one-mile, 50-min. tour of the caverns.

"The visitors base their feelings about the Caverns on their first impression," says Kirk Hansen, public relations director. "And that first impression is the condition of our grounds. They have to be immaculate."

While there are several miles of known passageways through the caverns, only about a mile is accessible by tram.

"That is a large part of what makes Fantastic Caverns so unique," Hansen says. "There are many beautiful caves in the United States, many of them right here in Missouri, but we are the only cave system in North America that is large enough to allow a riding tour. Not only is the riding tour less detrimental to the delicate balance of the cave ecosystem, but it also makes Fantastic Caverns accessible to people in wheelchairs and families with small children who aren't up to a lot of walking, lots of steps and steep climbs."

Maintenance supervisor Campbell says that a Grasshopper 720K mower has saved his crew time and helped them meet their lawn-cutting goals. "We used to mow liter-

ally 40 hours a week. We had one person who mowed the grass eight hours a day, every day, to keep the property looking the way it needs to. The Grasshopper mower lets us cut the whole property in a day and a half. That leaves a lot more time for equipment maintenance, remodeling and servicing the jeeps and trailers."

"Part of the look we are trying to achieve is a clean one," he adds. In the fall, he attaches the Quik-D-Tatch Vac® collection system to the mower to collect all the leaves.

As public relations director Hansen says, the aim of the grounds crew is to make Fantastic Caverns a vacation place. "That is why we are so meticulous in our groundskeeping. We want to make Fantas-

"Visitors base their feelings about the Caverns on their first impression. And that first impression is the condition of our grounds." - Kirk Hansen, public relations director of Fantastic Caverns

tic Caverns the kind of place that we would want to visit on vacation. And being so close to Branson, we have to keep up with the professionalism and image that the attractions down there project. If we want people to make us part of their Missouri vacation, then we have to look as good as we possibly can. You don't get a second chance to make a first impression."

For more information about Fantastic Caverns contact Kirk Hansen at 417-833-2010. **LJM**

Fantastic Caverns

Property size: 400 acres, 30 acres maintained as "front lawn" and five acres of lush fescue and bluegrass at entranceway; thick stands of trees and split rail fences require precise mowing

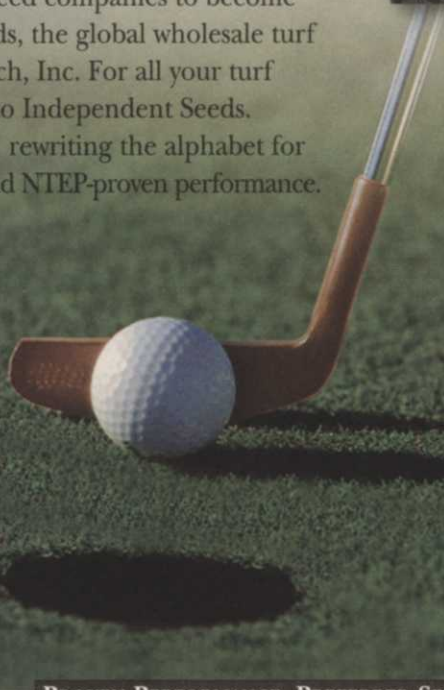
Equipment: International 2400 series tractor with 6-ft. Bush Hog flail mower, Grasshopper 720K, with 60-in. deck and grass catcher

Man-hours saved using Grasshopper: 28 hrs. per week

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products

TECH CENTER

Tough backhoe loaders

Komatsu introduces two new backhoe loaders that feature the company's Avance excavator technology with the HydraMind system. These features allow the machine to react almost instantly to a specific operator control, providing greater smoothness and controllability. The WB140-2 is 16,600 lbs. and 86 hp with a maximum digging depth of 14 ft., 6 in. The WB150-2 is 17,394 lbs. and 98 hp with a maximum digging depth of 15 ft., 6 in. Other features include a closed center load sensing system, load independent flow dividers, two working modes and speed-up.

For more information contact Komatsu at 847/970-5891 / circle no. 250

Elbow room

The Gehl 35 Series skid loaders feature spacious cabs with three different control options. User convenience and efficiency are emphasized by the loaders' excellent accessibility, powerful hydraulics and All-Tach mounting system that provides for various attachments. SAE operating capacities of the four models range from 1,425 to 2,650 lbs.

For more information contact Gehl at 262/334-9461 / circle no. 251

Spread the word

Gandy's two sizes of broadcast spreaders in push and tractor-tow models have 50- and 100-lb. capacity hoppers supported by an epoxy-coated carriage with pneumatic tires. All of the models have molded nylon and stainless steel metering components and an enclosed gearbox. The broadcast metering system has flow direction closures on the hopper bottom to reduce flow to right or left.

For more information contact Gandy at 800/443-2476 or www.gandy.net or circle no. 252

Uplifting experience

Mertz says that its new Hinowa Tracklift™ is being hailed as the smallest, least expensive all-

Touch screen system controls

J and J Truck Bodies and Trailers has integrated Action Trakker™ software into its DynaControl® Central Hydraulics System.™ Available in J and J's line of snow and ice control equipment, the Action Trakker lets the driver control all auxiliary functions from within the cab. The Action Trakker also collects operational and incident data for communication and tracking purposes as well for the reduction of liability.

For more information contact J and J at 814/443-1691, ext. 355 or www.JJbodies.com / circle no. 253



terrain/self-propelled mobile aerial lift in the world. With its retractable track system, the Tracklift can compress to a width of 30.7 in., enabling it to pass through doorways. Weighing in at 3,197 lbs., it's 34 ft. tall and can lift as



much as 440 lbs. at 1.3 ft. per second. Its aerial platform measures 51x28x43 in.

For more information contact Mertz at 580/763-0085 or www.mertzok.com / circle no. 254

Si, software

Now they're speaking your language - Simple Solutions, that is. The company has added Transparent Language's TranscendRT to its operations software package, Service-Ware. Translation? A manager can type instructions in English and, with a click of a button, translate those instructions into Spanish or Portuguese. Simple Solutions says that TranscendRT is not only accurate but can customize libraries to allow customers to save terminology specific to their industry.

For more information contact Simple Solutions

at 877/546-9594 or www.simpleSS.com / circle no. 255

Customized blade length

Fiskars' six in. Sliding Blade Pruning Saw™ has an adjustable blade which slides into the handle, allowing the blade length to be customized to the branch or angle being worked with. The sliding feature allows for compact and safe storage while the curved shape of the handle keeps the user's wrist in the right position.

For more information contact Fiskars at 800/500-4849 or www.fiskars.com / circle no. 256

Ergonomically designed chain saw

Solo's new top handle chain saw features a new ergonomic design with greater balance, easier starting and more stable operation during acceleration. Powered by a 2.2-cu. in. displacement engine, it features an antivibration system and easy-to-start primer system. It weighs less than 8 lbs., delivers a full 2.0 in horsepower and is equipped with a safety chain brake.



For more information contact Solo at 757/245-4228 / circle no.

257

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