

## Versatility key to new utility vehicles

By ANDREW OVERBECK

Superintendents demand a lot out of their utility vehicles. They must be versatile, able to tackle rough terrain and wide ranging jobs, yet they must also offer a wide array of operator comforts. And since they live on a golf course, they must be relatively quiet and pleasing to the eye.

It is a small wonder how utility vehicle manufacturers keep up with the growing list of operator demands, but it does explain the myriad of product innovations and new vehicles on the market today.

"These have to be go anywhere, do anything vehicles," said Peter Whurr, vice president of product development for Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products. With that in mind, the bulk of product innovations revolve around beefed up suspensions and drive trains.

"The advantages of a utility vehicles is that they have many of the features of a pick-up truck with a lot less of the

cost," said Ron Skenes, manager of communications for E-Z-GO. "The Workhorse LX utility vehicle has the big tires and suspension that allows it handle a variety of applications on the golf course."

While utility vehicles need to be capable of going off-road, they can't have a harsh truck-like ride. Toro concentrated on stability and handling when designing the new Workman 1100 that is due out in February 2000.

"Stability and ride comfort is important," said Toro's marketing manager Neil Bornstien. "Our active in-frame suspension allows for a comfortable ride and helps to provide excellent traction

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The new breed of utility vehicle: Club Car's XRT 272 (above); E-Z-GO's Workhorse LX 1200 (bottom left); and John Deere's E-Gator (bottom right). These new machines are versatile, tackle rough terrain and offer a wide array of operator comforts.



## E-Z-GO Textron, Cushman merge operations

AUGUSTA, Ga. — E-Z-GO Textron and Cushman have announced a newly formed merger. E-Z-GO Textron will manage all sales and marketing operations for the two companies out of its August, Ga., headquarters although Cushman's manufacturing operations will remain in Lincoln, Neb.

In 1998, Cushman was added to Textron as a result of a merger between E-Z-GO's parent company, Textron Inc. and Cushman owner, Ransomes.

"Cushman's high visibility and strong brand name within the industrial and commercial markets make it an excellent partner. The merger between the two companies gives us an unparalleled line of industrial and commercial vehicles," said L.T. Walden, E-Z-GO's president.

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