

Bolens Debuts GK, Versatile "Snaky" Tractor For Contract Mowing, Grounds Keeping Jobs

Contract applicators faced with mowing in and around closely spaced trees and bushes will want to investigate the new GK tractor introduced last month by Bolens.

Members of the trade press, hosted at a preview unveiling by golf champion Arnold Palmer, saw the GK 18-hp. frame-steering tractor fingertip maneuvered, serpentinelike, around ornamentals at the Milwaukee (Wis.) Country Club. Center-pivoted with power steering, a 2-cylinder Wisconsin engine power plant in the rear and up-front seating made the unit about as easy to handle as a sturdy motor scooter. Weighing 1,530 lbs., without attachments, it is the largest tractor in the Bolens line.

The new front-wheel drive unit has a 3-speed transmission coupled with a high/low range selector to provide 6 speeds forward from $\frac{3}{4}$ to 10 mph. A direct-drive takeoff shaft powers attachments which can be quickly locked in and secured with hitch pins.

Both front- and rear-mounted attachments are available, including the new front-end, flexible, 4-blade, 72-inch rotary mower with retractable wing sections. Bolens says this can cut 7.28 acres per hour at top

speed and 1.46 acres per hour at 2 mph. With the two 15" retractable extension wings, that are easily lifted and automatically disengaged, the GK mower will cut a wide 72" swath or smaller 57" or 42" swaths. It will also turn and trim in a small 24" inside cutting radius. The hinged wings make the GK into a 6' mower that follows and hugs the ground contour through a strong downpressure spring which can be disengaged for lighter mowing. Blades of each section overlap to prevent streaking, and there are adjustments to 5 mowing heights from $1\frac{1}{2}$ " to 5".

A built-in shock absorber protects gear boxes in case the user hits ground obstructions.

Presently available attachments, in addition to the rotary mower, include a snowplow-grader blade, a snow caster with cab, and dump cart. Other accessories to be added soon include a thatcher, sickle, broom, vacuum, and loader.

The GK tractor can be fitted with soft, specially developed Goodyear Terra-Grip tires to travel lightly on turf, said to leave only "pigeon tracks" that soon disappear.

In addition to power steering, the Bolens GK has, as standard



Agility of swivel-hipped Bolens new GK was demonstrated at press conference by guiding it between paired ornamental trees.

equipment, a hydraulic lift system, electric starting, and an 8-gal. fuel tank.

For more information and price of the GK, write Don L. Boldt, Industrial Products Mgr., Bolens Div., FMC Corp., Port Washington, Wis. 53074.

Corrosion-Resistant Seal Added to Universal Pump

A special Viton-stainless seal, resistant to erosive or corrosive actions of a wide variety of chemical combinations is claimed to give the new Aquamaster F-2 by Universal Motor Co., a longer useful life.

Another feature adding to the durability of the new spray pump is its complete outside epoxy finish to protect engine, base, and pump from most chemical combinations.

Field tests conducted during 1965 showed no evidence of seal deterioration or shaft wear after lengthy exposure to all available liquid fertilizer combinations, the company reports.

The improved model retains basic overall design features of the standard unit. Weight is 64 lbs. and $1\frac{1}{2}$ - and 2-inch models provide capacities to 7200 GPH and will handle solid articles of $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch diameter.

New data sheets covering models powered by Clinton, Lauson, and Briggs & Stratton engines are available. Write Universal Motor Co., 1552 Harrison St., Oshkosh, Wis.



Ground-hugging mower attachment, with 15" wings, enables GK to follow ground contour as on this grass strip between green and sand trap.