

TRACKING TRACTORS

Selecting the appropriate tractor is an important purchasing decision for a landscape manager. Here are some things to look for before making the big purchase.



better choice. Some machines are specifically designed for heavier loading and scraping.

Tire tips

Tire selection is another key consideration. Turf tires are usually desirable for mowing grass and other landscaping. Bar or lug-type tires are also suitable for many landscaping, utility and agricultural applications. Just as tires should match the application, the three-point hitch and PTO should correspond to the job and the attachments being used.

Front, rear and mid-mounted mowers, blades, loaders, snow throwers and other equipment have different requirements that should be considered during the buying process. Maintenance and safety features are also important, particularly when several employees are working with the machine.

Comfort, convenience and ease of service will increase efficiency of both the tractor and operator. Adding features that enhance performance and expand a

tractor's versatility should also be considered during the purchasing process.

"An option that's becoming more popular on smaller tractors is mechanical front wheel drive," Strome says. "This provides extra traction by supplying power to the front wheels as well as the rear, which reduces slippage in wet conditions, in loose soil and on slopes. The result is improved productivity and a unit that can easily handle a wide variety of tasks."

Weighing realistic expectations according to a tractor's capabilities will help insure that the selected unit provides optimum performance and satisfaction. **LM**

The guidelines to follow when choosing a tractor and associated attachments are as varied as the tasks for which they are used and, therefore, require careful consideration.

"It's important to determine the work that has to be done prior to purchasing a new piece of equipment," says Roger Strome, JI Case product supervisor for under-30 hp tractors. "Whether you're landscaping an office complex or mowing grass on a golf course, matching the tractor to the job will improve efficiency."

A number of criteria are involved in the buying decision, including horsepower requirements, tire selec-

tion, three-point hitch, power take-off (PTO) options and maintenance needs. All considerations should be assessed based on required performance by evaluating the type and variety of tasks and the size of machine needed to properly perform them.

Horsepower

Horsepower requirements depend upon the size and scope of the job and the amount of lifting, pushing and pulling to be performed. Tractors ranging from 15 to 30 hp will handle most mowing, scraping and loading chores.

For more rigorous work, however, a tractor from 35 to 75 hp may be a