

# Golf course mowers loaded with features

**Shopping for the right golf course mower can be confusing. Make your mower search easy. Prioritize your needs.**

■ Ask a golf course superintendent what he looks for in a mower, and he'll most likely say:

- 1) quality of cut;
- 2) longevity;
- 3) durability; and
- 4) low maintenance.

Mike Mongan, superintendent of the Arcola Country Club in Paramus, N.J., wanted a mower that cuts with precision. He found one, and credits the unit with taking the course to a higher plateau of professional appearance.

Another important feature won't be found anywhere on any mower you test ride. It's called "service"—from both the dealer and the manufacturer. And finally, there's price.

Price comes last? If not dead last, pretty close. As it is with any important purchase you make, if you shop only for price, you're gonna get burned.

Today's best golf course mowers are packed with more features



Jacobsen's Greens King IV



◀ Toro's Greensmaster 3100

than James Bond's Aston Martin (though we have yet to see a model that comes with oil slicks or machine guns).

● In response to the growing concern over grass clippings disposal, some manufacturers now offer mulching blades, which chop the clippings into virtual non-existence.

● Larger mowers are packed with improvements in the drive train, braking system and hydraulic controls.

● Rotary mowers can also come with large hoppers for catching the clippings.

● A good, responsive rough mower will eliminate extra time spent trimming around trees in rough areas.

● To curtail compaction on greens, more superintendents are looking for lightweight units, and manufacturers are providing them.

Though large gang-reel mowers are often used for large fairway areas, the reel blade does require more maintenance. Most pull-behind gang reels mowers require at least one rebuild each year.

"I've saved \$4000 to \$5000 using rotary mowers in roughs as opposed to reels," says Mongan. "There's no relief grinding and bedknife grinding; and there's no bearing kits or seals to replace."

The maintenance advantage of the rotary blade is in the ease of changing it when it comes time to sharpen.

The "real" advantage to the reel mower is in the quality of cut. Rotary mowers tend to chop at the leaf blade, resulting in a more damaging cut.

Other features to consider:

● Fairway mowers should provide the consistency of cut that golfers look for.

● Cutter decks: better air flow means better vacuuming capability, resulting in a cleaner finish; "floating decks" are designed to follow the contour of the terrain.

● Width of cut and suspension are also important, depending on individual needs; to make the most of your mowing time, get a mower with a deck that's at least 48 inches wide.

● Some cutting units can be operated individually or in different combinations.

● Speed: important, considering the wide areas you'll be cutting.

—Terry McIver

# GOLF COURSE MOWERS\*

## REEL MOWERS

Manufacturer	Model	Engine	Width	Cutting Height	Cutting Accessories	Circle No.
Brouwer	5 & 7-gang	PTO	138"/192"	3/4"-3 1/4"	Hydraulic lift to raise mowing units	300
Bunton	5-gang fairway mower	Onan 20-hp or Kubota 22-hp	100"	1/4"-3/4"	Outboard reels raise and lock	301
John Deere & Co.	305 Hydraulic	540 RPM PTO	142"	3/8"-2 3/8"	Grooved front rollers; rear rollers/scrapers	302
	3325 (5-gang)	Yanmar diesel 38-hp	138"	3/8"-3"		303
Jacobsen Kubota	LF-100	Kubota D950, 3-cyl.	100"	1/4"-3/4"	Fairway turf groomer	304
	Verti-Reel	L3250F tractor	15' 6"	3/8"-3"	Hand-adjustable bed knife	305
Lesco National	5-7 gang reels		11' 2"			
	500D	Kubota diesel; 22-hp	100"	1/4"-1 3/8"	6-, 8- or 9-blade reels	306
	Triplex 84	Briggs & Stratton Vanguard	84"	1/2"-2"	Optional winch to raise reels	307
Ransomes	220 M28-4WD	Kubota 3-cyl; 28-hp	84"	1/2"-2"	Hydrostatic drive for automatic positive braking	308
Toro	Reelmaster 223-D	Mitsubishi diesel	95"	1/4"-5/8"	Five or eight cutting units	309

## ROTARY MOWERS

Manufacturer	Model	Engine	Width	Cutting Height	Cutting Accessories	Circle No.
Bunton	Hydrostat	Briggs & Stratton 18-hp Vanguard	61"	1"-4"	Instant forward/reverse	310
Jl Case	60MS	Mid-PTO drive	60"	1 1/2"-4"	Three blade spindles	311
Cushman	Model 810	Kubota diesel, 3-cyl.	60"-72"	1"-4 1/2"	All-hydraulic drive	312
John Deere & Co.	F915; F932; F935	Yanmar 17-28 hp	60"-76" decks	1 1/2"-4"; 1"-6"	Anti-scalp rollers	313
Dixon	ZTR 503 HG	Kohler 20-hp	50"	1 1/2"-4 1/2"	Hydrostatic/hydro gear	314
Encore	Pro-Line 48/60	Briggs/Kawasaki/Kohler/Honda	48"-60"	1"-4"	3 cutting blades	315
Excel	Hustler out-fronts	Gear box spiral bevel gears	60"-72"	1"-5"	Range Wing attachment cuts a 12' swath	316
Exmark	Turf Tracer 5-spd.	Kawasaki 14-hp or Kohler 18-hp	52" or 60"	1 1/2"-4 1/2"	Five-speed transmission	317
Ferris	H1618B	Vanguard 17-hp	48"-52"	1 1/2"-4"	Patented electric lift	318
Ford New Holland	CM224/CM274	Liquid-cooled diesel	60"/72"	1 1/2"-4 1/2"	Independent brakes	319
Grasshopper	700 Series	Briggs & Stratton; Kohler; Onan	48"-72"	1"-5"	Dual hydrostatic direct drive	320
Gravelly	Pro Master-G	Kohler, 20-hp	50"-60"	1 1/4"-4 3/4"	Filtered hydraulic reservoir	321
Honda	HRC7013ZXA	Honda 13-hp	36"-48"	1 1/2"-5 1/2"	Twin hydraulic drive pump and motor system	322
Howard Price	Turf Blazer 1260	Yanmar Diesel	72"	1"-5"	Four-wheel drive optional	323
Jacobsen	HR-5111	Kubota 4-cyl.	134"	1"-5 1/2"	Hydrostatic transmission	324
Kubota	FZ2100	Kubota 20-hp	54"-60"	1"-4"	Zero Diameter Turn; auto assist differential	325
Lesco	52" Commercial	Kohler Magnum 20-hp	52"	1"-4 1/2"	Dual articulating decks	326
M & W Gear	Lawn Clipper	Briggs & Stratton Kohler	42"-62"	1"-4"	11-bushel hopper	327
Ransomes	XT6150	Kubota diesel 51-hp	61"-117"	1"-4 3/4"	Tilt-wheel, hydrostatic steering	328
Simplicity	CFC Series	Briggs & Stratton Vanguard or Kohler Magnum	46"-66"	1"-4"	Dual hydrostatic infinitely variable transmission	329
Steiner	Model 425 Super w/MD472 deck	Onan 24-hp	Deck: 72"	1"-4"	3-blade rotary mower	330
Toro	Gr'ndsm'ster 455-D	Peugeot 4-cyl.	54"/90"/126"	1"-5"	Patented Traction Plus weight transfer system	331
Woods	5250	Kubota 24.5-hp	52"	1"-4"	Dynamic braking; hydrostatic transmission	332

## GREENS MOWERS

Manufacturer	Model	Engine	Width	Cutting Height	Cutting Accessories	Circle No.
Bunton	Walk-Behind	Wisc. Robin 3.5-hp	22"-26"	5/32"-13/32"	Powered rotary brush	333
Jacobsen	Greens King IV	Kohler 16-hp gas	62"	3/16"-7/16"	1/8" cut with low profile bedknife attachment	334
John Deere & Co.	2243	Kubota 16.5-hp diesel	22"	3/32"-3/4"	Hydrostatic transmission	335
Ransomes	Greens 3000D	Kawasaki FD 590V	22 3/4"	1/8"-1/2"	Hydrostatic braking	336
Toro	Gr'nsmaster 3100	Kubota twin cylinder Vanguard V-59"	59"	1/8"-3/4"	Turf Guardian leak detector	337
Lesco	300/300D	Twin cylinder Kohler Magnum 18-hp	60 3/4"	1/8"-1 1/16"	Reversible hydraulics, cutting units can be back-lapped	338

\*Models are representative of company products; other models may be available.