

## LM REPORTS

# Mower options: more than 'bells and whistles'

## Optional attachments turn mowers into essential, year-round machines.

by Steve and Suz Trusty

■ When is a mower not a mower? When optional attachments have converted the base power unit to a backhoe, skid-steer loader, powered blade, aerator, blower, brush or snowblower.

How important are these optional attachments? How do they affect the need for additional pieces of equipment? How do they affect the cost effectiveness of the original mower?

Obviously, the answers to these questions will vary with each equipment owner. But often, optional attachments can make a major contribution to the bottom line.

● Consider snow removal. If a mower in the northern climates can be converted to a snowblower or equipped with a blade, the seasonal life of that machine is extended by three to five months annually. After the costs of the attachments and additional use hours are factored in, the overall cost of the equipment for mowing is offset by the added use. Expenses for hiring outside help or purchasing a dedicated piece of equipment for snow removal are eliminated.

● If a backhoe is used once every five years, purchasing such an attachment won't be cost effective. If a backhoe is needed frequently, purchasing an attachment may be justified.

If several attachments for the same basic power unit keep that equipment in use over a long enough period, it can justify the purchase of a much more powerful machine than would be needed for mowing only.

Use your calculator or computer to compare past use and equipment rental figures with equipment options.

● How many hours will be needed for mowing? How many hours for snow removal, trenching, clearing areas or other tasks?

● How do the costs of a dedicated piece of specialty equipment, current rental rates for the anticipated period, and the cost of the attachment compare?

● Can current personnel handle the proposed tasks, or could they, if taken through a minimum training period? Would assigning them to the task cut into efficiency in other areas of turf care?

Though the "bells and whistles" may be classified as optional attachments, they can turn a good mower into an essential, year-round machine.

—The authors, principals in Trusty & Associates, Council Bluffs, Ia., are members of the Sports Turf Managers Association.

**FOR ADDITIONAL MOWER PRODUCTS,  
SEE PAGE 44**

**John Deere:** The F1145 front mower has a two-function four-wheel drive system. "On demand" four-wheel drive automatically engages and disengages as needed to improve fuel economy, reduce steering tire wear, and maintain traction when following landscape contours during trim work.

A "Full-Time" four-wheel drive can be engaged or disengaged en route, and works in reverse as well as forward drive.



**Circle No. 300 on Reader Inquiry Card**

**Dixon's ZTR560** riding mower makes a 60-inch cut with three blades. Height of cut adjusts from one to four inches.

Other features include:

- electric blade clutch; ● hydrostatic transmission;
- 20-hp Kohler engine ● electric start
- 4.8 gallon fuel capacity

**Circle No. 301 on Reader Inquiry Card**



**Encore's Pro-Line** steerable sulky lets the operator convert a walk-behind mower to a riding model.

Advanced tracking features keep the mower's controls within the operator's reach and eliminate scuffing the turf.

The sulky ad-justs to terrain independent from the mower, and a quick-release hitch makes for easy conversion back to a walk-behind.

**Circle No. 302 on Reader Inquiry Card**

The **Exmark Explorer II** has a 52-inch floating cutting deck; TriVantage design for mulching, bagging or discharge.

A Micro-Mulch accessory recycles clipping into the turf and comes with rear utility box.

**Circle No. 303 on Reader Inquiry Card**



**Grasshopper:** Quik-D-Thatch Vac Grasscatching System uses a powerful vacuuming action to clean up clippings, leaves, debris.



It disconnects in seconds without tools. Five collectors are available, ranging from 8- to 25-cu.ft. capacity.

●Rotary Broom sweeps away dirt and debris and clears up to eight inches of snow.

●Dozer blade moves dirt, sand and gravel, and snow quickly and easily. It is available in 48- or 60-inch blades which operate straight ahead or 25 degrees left or right.

**Circle No. 304 on Reader Inquiry Card**

**Jacobsen Division of Textron:** a new five-gang fairway mower, the LF-33810, was released in September of 1992. The LF-



3810 features a 155-inch cut, with five, 7-inch diameter, 10-blade reels.

Jacobsen's down-pressure spring system follows ground contours for a quality cut, even with cutting heights as low as  $\frac{3}{8}$  of an inch, at speeds up to 7.5 mph.

**Circle No. 305 on Reader Inquiry Card**

**Kubota Tractor Corporation's** GF1800E front mower is designed for maximum mowing performance and efficiency.

Equipped with a hefty 18-hp, liquid-cooled diesel engine and a variety of other

performance and safety features, the GF1800E is ideally suited to commercial mowing jobs.

The GF1800E is available in three shaft-driven, off-set mowers:

- 1) a 48-inch mulching rear discharge mower;
- 2) a 54-inch side discharge mower;
- 3) a 60-inch side discharge mower.

**Circle No. 306 on Reader Inquiry Card**



**Lesco** 42-inch and 52-inch commercial rotary mowers are high-productivity and easy to operate.

Their zero-turning-radius design lends extra maneuverability.



An exclusive dual-articulating deck simplifies mowing of hills, slopes and banks, and also provide better traction.

These Lesco mowers feature two hydraulic pumps and individual wheel motors.

**Circle No. 307 on Reader Inquiry Card**

**Scag:** The SSZ "Super Z" gives commercial cutters a zero-radius operation with a 48-inch floating deck.

Forward ground movement is to 6.8 mph.

Additional features: electric blade engagement clutch, durable taper roller bearingspindles, and a 5-gallon fuel tank.

**Circle No. 308 on Reader Inquiry Card**

The 35 hp version of **Gravelly's** Promaster 400 Series of diesel front mount commercial mowers has added a



differential lock to its list of attractive features such as:

- hydrostatic drive;
- hydraulic lift;
- "sharp turn" steering
- heavy duty battery;
- easy wheel brake lock,
- 8.75 gallon gas tank
- easy-to-reach points.

**Circle No. 309 on Reader Inquiry Card**

