

LM REPORTS

Spring is for lawn dethatching

Whichever your budget permits, a dethatcher is an important tool. You can't meet spring without one.

■ It's the landscape and lawn care industry's equivalent to "a fresh coat of paint," or "spring cleaning."

It's the one industry activity that signals, more than any other, the coming of a new growing season.

Dethatching: a spring ritual that guarantees you another chance to start over.

"Upon this green canvas you will paint your masterpiece."

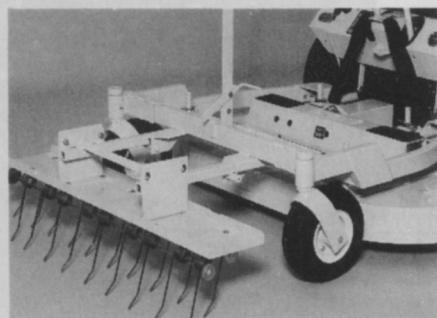
And whether your budget allows you to buy a unit dedicated exclusively to dethatching, or a trailer unit or an attachment, if you don't have a dethatcher, you can't clear away the dead grass and stems and leaves and whatever else has built up in the turf since November.

Here's a rundown of the dethatchers available for 1994, from companies that responded to our requests for information. Included are two liquid products, which depend on microbial action to eliminate thatch.

Want more info? Just circle the appropriate number on the reply card.

—Terry McIver

Walker's spring tine dethatcher attachment removes and collects lawn thatch in one pass. Thatch is collected by the Walker GHS vacuum. (#320)



Gandy's dethatcher deck is 540-pto driven from tractors 18 hp and higher. (#312)



Ransomes America Corporation's Ren-O-Thin features include four interchangeable reels for dethatching, thinning and vertical cutting. (#317)

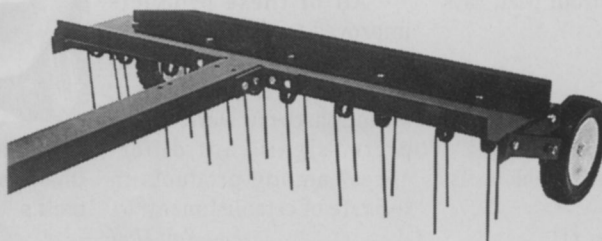
The Parker Power Thatcher cuts a full 19-inch swath through built up thatch. Three reel attachments to choose from: tine, knife and flail. (#316)



The Jacobsen Aero King 1321 not only dethatches, it is also a seeder and verti-cutter. (#313)



Precision Products makes a variety of heavy duty trailer dethatchers. Shown is Model TT-400. It's 40 inches wide, with adjustable spring steel tines. The unit weighs 36 lbs. (#323)



Dethatching equipment for 1994

| Company | Product | Features |
|--|----------------------|---|
| Fuerst Bros. Circle No. 311 | Flexible tine harrow | Prepares seedbeds, breaks up aeration cores and helps work seed into the soil. Prepare fine seedbeds quickly and easily with this flat, pull-behind harrow. Smooth out sharp edges of roughgrading prior to seeding or placing sod. Covers seed and firms soil to improve germination. |
| Gandy Co. Circle No. 312 | PTO units | New options for its 48-inch, 3-pt. hitch dethatcher/overseeder: the deck has 8-inch saw-tooth blades on 2-inch centers; seed can be placed alongside disc openers, which can be angled to achieve width of slit desired; or, a seed shoe assembly channels seeds directly into the turf. |
| Jacobsen Circle No. 313 | Aero King 1321 | Also a seeder and verti-cutter; front-mounted verticut blades allow the operator to verticut and seed at once. Verticutting, seeding or thatching can be performed singly; 13-hp Honda engine. |
| F. D. Kees Mfg. Circle No. 314 | Power rake | Dethatcher is easily converted to Power Slice vertical cut aerator. Standard features: 5 hp Briggs & Stratton IC engine, Kevlar corded drive belt, 28 steel fingers to remove thatch or 20 steel blades that slice, thin and aerate turf. |
| Lesco Circle No. 315 | Dethatcher | A durable 5-hp Briggs & Stratton industrial/commercial engine drives the blade shaft through two cast iron pulleys and a heavy-duty B-section V-Belt; 16 heat-treated high-carbon steel, double-tipped blades; unit weighs 107 lbs; width is 30-inches. |
| Mathews Co. Circle No. 316 | Lawn Genie | Pick-up mowers mow, thatch, sweep and mulch lawn large areas of turf. Unit verticuts, cleans and picks up debris in one pass; vacuum action lifts clippings, leaves, twigs, pine needles, and thatch into an all metal hopper. |
| Parker Sweeper Co. Circle No. 317 | Thatch O-Matic | Power rakes are built for a wide range of lawn care applications. 5 hp Briggs & Stratton engine with recoil starter; handle mounted idler clutch and throttle control; easy height adjustment features. |
| Ransomes America Circle No. 318 | Ryan Ren-O-Thin IV | For a variety of turf duties. Four interchangeable reels, for dethatching, thinning and vertical cutting. Reverse handlebars to break up aeration cores. Spring-loaded clutch control |
| Salsco Circle No. 319 | Seeder/dethatcher | The Model 360 Operates on 4-wheel drive and is powered by an 8-hp Honda engine. The seed hopper holds 25 lbs. of seed. In the seeder mode, with the hopper connected, the 380 seeder/dethatcher is capable of seeding 22,500 sq. ft. per hour. One lever lowers cutters, sets cutter depth, activates cutter. |
| Turfco Circle No. 320 | Slice-N-Rake | A power rake and dethatcher that features fixed blades that rotate in the reverse as the unit moves forward. According to Turfco, this rotation allows the blades to enter the thatch like a hook and pull it up and out of the turf. Light alloy deck for easy loading. Powered by a 5 hp Briggs and Stratton engine. Quick depth of cut adjustment. |
| Walker Manufacturing Circle No. 321 | Tine attachment | Spring tine dethatcher attachment removes and collects lawn thatch in one pass. Thatch is collected by the Walker GHS vacuum. The dethatching unit attaches easily onto the 36- or 42-inch mower deck without fasteners. |
| Aabaco Industries Circle No. 322 | Luma-dethatch | Accelerates thatch decomposition. A powerful collection of bacteria strains aggressively attack thatch and convert it into humus; |
| Envirogenesis Circle No. 323 | Thatch biodigest | Naturally-occurring microorganisms decompose thatch and restore the natural balance of water, air soil and nutrients, resulting in a strong and healthy root system; increases disease resistance. |

Source: LM phone/mail survey, January, 1994