



John Deere 45 BP comes with padded harness and backrest.



Selbro Pro-Blow mounts to Walker ZTR mower.



It's no secret: power blowers are fast, efficient and worth every penny of their purchase price. Here, a grounds manager uses the Stihl BR 320L.

BEWARE: BLOWER BANS

Your community could be next for 'Project Quiet Yard.'

by JERRY ROCHE / Editor-in-Chief

Landscapers from coast to coast are not taking too kindly to some of their local leaders lately. From as far east as Scarsdale, N.Y., about 15 miles north of Manhattan, to as far west as Los Angeles, they are being threatened by anti-leaf blower legislation.

In Los Angeles, Marvin Braude heads a committee that recommends a law to ban the use of backpack blowers within 500 feet of residential living units.

"Obviously, Councilman Braude is pretty intent on going after this issue again," says Robin Pendergrast of International Marketing Exchange, which represents Echo, Inc., a leading blower maker. "My feeling is that he has a hard, tough road ahead of him, as he has in the past."

The entire L.A. city council will probably have a public hearing on May 14th, prior to a vote on the proposed blower ban.

In Scarsdale, landscapers are not allowed to use any power leaf blower that is louder than 75 decibels. At certain times of the day—according to a city law—they cannot even use a blower louder than 55 decibels.

Members of the New York Turf & Landscape Association are poised to go back to court a third time to battle the legislation, which was allowed by an appellate panel of three state Supreme Court justices early this year, after being disallowed late last year.

"Improper procedure lost us the case," says New York Turf & Landscape Association president Joe Tinelli of Westchester County. "But we are re-submitting all the paperwork and we're going to have it contested again this summer on the basis of constitutionality."

The association has already spent nearly \$18,000 on the case, not including the \$4,000 to re-submit.

"We're planning a public forum where both sides can take off the gloves and go at it," says Tinelli. "People are being brainwashed by that 'Project Quiet Yard' group out of Connecticut, which is travelling all over the country."

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POWER BLOWERS FOR PROFESSIONAL USE

ECHO (847) 540-8400 Circle No. 280

PB4600 has 44cc engine; 70 dBA; 22 lbs.; tube-mounted throttle control offers one-hand operation; two-quart fuel tank

ENCORE (402) 228-4255 Circle No. 281

Pro-Line walk-behind blower has 8 hp industrial/commercial engine; adjustable chute; heavy-duty front caster; heavy-duty pneumatic rear wheels with re-greasable roller bearings; wide air intake vent

FRADAN (914) 632-3769 Circle No. 282

Model BB-50 Bac-Pac has 41cc Fradan engine; 236 mph air speed; 590 cu. ft./min. air volume; 67 dBA with large 3-qt. fuel tank

Models PB8IC, PB9VG, PB14VG, PB11IC are walk-behinds with Briggs & Stratton Engines (model no. corresponds to engine hp) with cu. ft./min. volume ranges from 2129 to 3500 and dBAs of 70

JACOBSEN (414) 637-6711 Circle No. 283

B-40 is a high-volume blower that mounts to any 25 hp, 540 rpm tractor with three-point linkage; 5,000 cu. ft./min.; directional chute; all-steel construction

Three blower attachments can be mounted to Jacobsen Turfcut; feature 23 and 28 hp diesel engines or 45 hp gas engine; 225 mph air speed; 3400 cu. ft./min. air volume; 222° directional chute

JOHN DEERE (919) 850-0123 Circle No. 284

Model 45BP (back pack) has air speed of 180 mph with padded harness and backrest; 44cc engine; air volume of 370 cu. ft./min.; twist-lock pipe section for hard-to-reach areas

LESCO (216) 333-9250 Circle No. 285

Hydraulic Drive Wheel Blower 4000 is a walk-behind with 16 hp Briggs & Stratton engine; variable speed hydraulic drive; remote control side deflector; heavy-duty swiveling front caster wheel

LITTLE WONDER (215) 357-5110 Circle No. 286

Commercial walk-behind has 11 hp engine; ergonomically-designed handle; 12-gauge steel housing; five-year warranty

Commercial hand-held blower weighs 8 lbs.; 130 mph air velocity; 300 cu. ft./min. air volume; 21.2cc engine with electronic ignition

MARUYAMA (206) 885-0811 Circle No. 287

BL400 backpack: 40.2cc Kawasaki engine; 475 cu. ft./min. air volume, 220 mph air speed; 19.8 lbs.

put volume; cast aluminum

Model PB-18KBDC mounts in the bed of most turf truck vehicles; powered by Kohler 18 hp Command engine; adjustable discharge chute; 175 mph, 5500 cu. ft./min.

Models PB-8HIC and PB-8BV are walk-behinds with vertical- and horizontal-blow units

ProBlow attaches to and operates off fuel and battery of sand trap rakes with Class I three-point hitch; Kohler Command 18 hp engine; 175 mph; 5000 cu. ft./min.

SHINDAIWA (503) 692-3070 Circle No. 290



Shindaiwa EB480 features fuel shut-off on throttle control.

BL4800 backpack: 48.6cc Kawasaki engine; 580 cu. ft./min. air volume, 220 mph air speed; 20.9 lbs.

MIGHTY MAC (610) 495-7181 Circle No. 288

LB552PNIP walk-behind has 5 hp Briggs & Stratton IC engine; 175 mph air speed; flow rate of 1800 cu. ft./min.

LB862IC has Briggs & Stratton 8 hp IC engine; 200 mph, 2000 cu. ft./min.

LB962V has 9 hp B&S Vanguard engine; 200 mph, 2000 cu. ft./min.

SELBRO (419) 483-9918 Circle No. 289

Model PB-18WLKR mounts to Walker ZTR mower; air speeds up to 175 mph with 4500 cu. ft./min. out

EB480 introduced last month; noise rating of 69 dBA; 43.6cc engine; blowing speed of 180 mph; fuel shut-off on throttle control lever; Walbro carburetor; convenient tube design; under 20 lbs.

SOLO (804) 245-4228 Circle No. 291

414 Backpack blower uses 55cc engine; 229 mph air velocity; 589 cu. ft./min. volume; weighs 17 lbs.; anti-vibration elements; pistol grip

STIHL (804) 486-9100 Circle No. 292

BR400: 57cc engine with air speeds up to 170 mph and flow rate of 476 cu. ft./min.; variable speed trigger on swivel air tube; one-year professional warranty

BG72: 23.9cc engine; weighs

8.8 lbs.; 365 cu. ft./min. air flow rate; quiet-69dBA; one-year professional warranty

BR 320L: 44.9cc engine; weighs 18.5 lbs.; swivel air tube; built-in tool holders and tools; 69 dBA; optional vacuum kit, spray conversion kit, dry spreader kit

SNAPPER (770) 954-2598 Circle No. 293

Model SLB514 is walk-behind with 5 hp Briggs & Stratton engine; 125 mph air speed; 1500 cu. ft./min. air volume

Model SLB55PN: 5 hp B&S engine, adjustable front wheel, loop handle; 175 mph air speed, 1800 cu. ft./min. air volume

Model SLB862IC: 8 hp Briggs industrial engine; adjustable front wheel; loop handle; 200 mph air speed; 2000 cu. ft./min. air volume

STEINER (330) 828-0200 Circle No. 294

Model PB100 14-inch blower fits on front of Steiner Model 410 turf tractor; 90 mph blowing power; 8-bladed, welded fan

TANAKA (206) 395-3900 Circle No. 295

TBL-4600 backpack blower has 43cc engine that delivers 500 cu. ft./min. air volume and 200 mph air speed; weighs 20.9 lbs.; 1-year commercial warranty, 5-year ignition module warranty; extra large fuel tank

TORO (612) 887-8801 Circle No. 296

Gas Blower/Vac has 31cc engine; weighs 12 lbs.; full two-year warranty; variable speed throttle control, super low tone muffler

Super Blower has dual air speed control; 190 mph air speed; 6+ lbs.

VANDERMOLEN (201) 992-8506 Circle No. 297

Windmill Model 856BT has air volume of 800 cu. ft./min. and 225 mph speed; 56.5 cc engine; anti-vibe system, interlocking blow pipes; 12-blade fan; positive ratchet throttle lever; 22 lbs.; quiet low-tone muffler

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"All we want is a compromise. We know that there's no reason to have four blowers going on one property at the same time," Tinelli concedes. "But the other side is becoming absolutely ridiculous. It's getting to be a trendy thing to get involved with, like 'Save the Whales.'"

Echo Manufacturing—which is planning to release an ultra-low-noise backpack blower before the end of the year—recommends that commercial power blower users follow these operating tips to avoid upsetting homeowners and thus decreasing the possibility of further government intrusion into their livelihoods:

1) Use the blower at less than full

throttle, if possible. Remember, it's not how far you're blowing debris but how the job looks when it's done.

2) Operate power blowers only at reasonable hours (not early in the morning or late at night).

3) Avoid open windows and other places where dust and noise might be a

nuisance.

4) Develop skills in using accessories such as misters and nozzle attachments.

5) Clean up debris that has been assembled by the blower—promptly.

6) Keep the blower in good working order. Routinely check the muffler, air intakes, air filter and fuel filter. **LM**



Echo PB4600, with tube-mounted throttle.



Little Wonder has an 11 hp engine.

Get the one that gets them all!

Ground Ivy
Oxalis
Spurge
Clover
Sandbur
Nutsedge
Crabgrass
Goosegrass

Unwanted grasses, nutsedge PLUS broadleaf weeds removed from turf!

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Circle 120