



Melroe Bobcat offers two sizes of Bobcat landscape rakes.

GROUND-WORKING TOOLS

These heavy-duty workers save hundreds of hours of hard, dusty labor when used to prepare a landscape site for project installation.



An 8-foot-wide leveler from Purdy Manufacturing.

By CURT HARLER

Rock pickers, scarifiers and rakes are like football linemen. They do the tough dirty work up front, preparing the way for the pretty boys to finish the job.

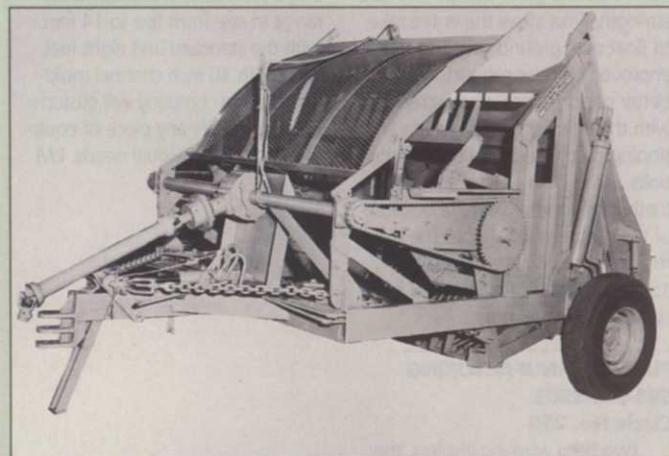
When choosing a rock-picking machine, keep in mind that PTO-driven machines are generally more versatile and will give outstanding results in severe rock or debris conditions. According to Armor Metal Products President Lee Andrews, a good PTO-driven machine will pick to depths of three-to-five inches in dry, worked soil.

Ground-driven machines are primarily for surface work and work best where rock is brought to the surface, Andrews says.

There are several ways to determine the correct operating depth. One is to watch the reel teeth as they pass through the soil passing over the apron's leading edge. The reel arm crossbar (which holds the teeth) should not strike the soil. The apron leading edge bar sides do not run as deep as the reel teeth are picking, but do give a good gauge of depth. Don't allow too much soil to pile up on the apron.

If it is very dusty, note the position of the front hydraulic cylinder shaft to determine the amount of control used. If large quantities of dirt are coming over the top of the reel with the arms, odds are good you are running too deep. Don't let too much soil pile up on the apron, either.

Randy Purdy of Purdy Manufacturing notes that the rough ground working machines are being used by everyone from



A PTO-driven Anderson Rotary rock picker.

developers, sod farms, golf courses, cemetery builders and softball and Little League associations.

Pickers generally are a good investment. A rock picker picking up roughly 250,000 pounds per day is doing the equivalent of 30 to 35-man days of rock removal. Even the toughest football player would be hard-pressed to keep up with that kind of performance.

ARMOR METAL PRODUCTS
406-442-5560
Circle No. 250

Heavy duty, Series-E PTO (power take off) driven Anderson Rotary Rock Picker is designed to remove rock ranging from golf-ball size to 200 pounds. The machine from Armor Metal, Helena, MT features constant reel power for continuous picking throughout its speed range of 1 mph to 5 mph. Self-cleaning apron and shock-protected reel are complimented by a 4000-pound capacity hopper which can be raised to 7.5 feet for truck loading. Requires wheel-type tractor with minimum 40 hp plus PTO and double-acting hydraulics. Can move 200,000 to 300,000 pounds per day. Optional 11L-15 flotation tires are available for use in soft ground or severe conditions.

ARMOR METAL PRODUCTS
406-442-5560
Circle No. 251

Handle a 10-foot swath with the Armor Rock Windrower. The 27-inch diameter reel is PTO driven, hydraulically controlled and has two spiral rows of double-braced, hard-faced teeth. Assembly is spring-loaded to give maximum ground pressure plus shock protection. Machine, made in Helena, MT handles rock conditions from scattered to severe.

DAIRON
717-288-9360
Circle No. 252

Quartet of tough machines from Dairon, Kingston, PA, handles stones, clods, grass and debris. The RX 130, RX 180, RX 220 and RX 300 Rotadairon units give working widths from 51 inches to 120 inches. Smaller two units require 48 to 95 hp, a 540 or 1000 rpm PTO and have a single side-driven transmission with dry clutch. The larger units need a Category 2 hitch, 1000 rpm PTO and a tractor with 90 to 150 hp. They have two-side drive and hydraulic clutches. These units cultivate to a depth of 8.5 inches, burying stones and leave a clean seed bed, creating a fine soil surface for good seed-soil contact.

GLENMAC
800-437-9779
Circle No. 253

The Harley Pro-6 and Pro-8 power rakes, from Glenmac, Jamestown, ND, level ground, pulverize the soil and remove stones and other debris. These units feature twin-drive rollers, oil-bath drives, splined power shafts, height adjustable wheels, and hydraulic float control on the Pro-8. Sized for 29-55 hp tractors, these units allow for left or right raking. The rotating tooth rollers leave a dimpled subsurface in the seedbed and a granular top, creating an excellent seedbed. Also available is the Model B stone picker that handles materials from one-half to 18 inches in diameter. Two models are available, requiring 35 to 75 PTO hp and an 11 gpm hydraulic at 1500 psi.

BEN MEADOWS CO
800-241-6401
Circle No. 254

When the rough grading is done and it's time to do the finish work, check out the full line of Union and True Temper rakes and forks available through the Ben Meadows catalog. On page 101 of the Atlanta, GA, firm's free catalog is a full line of level-head, bow, aluminum landscape and chrome-moly landscape rakes. Hoes, spades, picks and shovels are among the thousands of other landscaping-related



Harley power rakes level ground, pulverize the soil and remove stones and other debris. Features include twin-drive rollers, oil-bath drives, splined power shafts, hydraulic float control.

products on the pages of this 460-page book.

MELROE BOBCAT
701-241-8700
Circle No. 255

Two sizes of Bobcat landscape rakes, Models 5B and 6B, offer several improvements over the older A line from Melroe, Fargo, ND. Top cover has one-piece design for more strength, links allow the entire rake to float over ground contours, and improved cylinder supports offer better performance when scraping with the internal bucket. Chain tensioning is adjusted with tightening bolts as the chain wears and rake teeth have longer wear-life because of their trapezoidal shape. The drive motor in the 5B rake is sized for 12-15 gpm hydraulic flow; the 6B is sized for 15 to 18 gpm.

PURDY MANUFACTURING
501-946-3503
Circle No. 256

Two hard working levelers, the

D20 and a 3-point lift model are available from Purdy Manufacturing, DeWitt, AR. The D20 center axle rides on one center axle and the tractor draw bar. Patented trip blades and self-leveling cylinder make it perfect for raw new ground or finishing work. The 3-point lift model has a front V-blade for splitting hard ridges and cleaning or cutting out shallow V-ditches. Units range in size from five to 14 feet with the standard unit eight feet wide with 10 inch channel moldboards. The company will custom-build or modify any piece of equipment to suit individual needs. **LM**