

AERIAL LIFTS

Booms are essential in the tree care industry, but there are strict safety guidelines to follow.

By CURT HARLER



Operator-driven, self-propelled unit from Polecat Industries will not damage turf or landscapes. The lift is hydraulic.



The Leguan Plus from Speciality Equipment has a 36-ft. working height, flexible aerial work platform, 298 lb. platform capacity.

Landscapers in the market for an aerial lift will find two types to choose from: scissorlifts, for lower height applications and heavier platform loads with larger working area; and telescoping booms, targeted at applications where reach and mobility are key.

For jobs in confined areas and hard-to-reach sites, telescoping booms with a jib boom, articulating/telescoping booms, and articulating/telescoping booms with articulating jib booms are available, notes Don Roach, vice president of marketing at Snorkel, St. Joseph, Mo. Jib booms, used after the telescoping boom is extended, allow workers to reach out and over obstructions to the work area.

Safety around lines, training essentials

Always beware overhead electrical or phone lines when extending a lift. The fireworks display you'll get when you extend a boom into power lines is impressive. But the price you pay—both in dollars and in fury from a justly enraged utility supervisor—is not worth the price of the show. Look up, especially in dense foliage or in fog.

Failure to train aerial work platform operators can result in litigation and OSHA citations, warns Roach. In some cases, job-site safety requirements may be more stringent than those dictated by OSHA.

High-reach telescoping booms must be fitted with tilt alarms that sound when the base unit is out of level. Machines with expanding axles should have a boom/axle interlock that prevents the boom from being raised above horizontal unless the axles are properly extended and locked.

Slab operated scissorlifts should have a pothole protection device that reduces the likelihood of tipping if a wheel is accidentally driven into a hole or off the edge of the slab.

Scissorlifts must have an alarm that sounds when the platform is being lowered and a built-in safety support beam to hold the scissors arms when the machine is being serviced.

AERIAL LIFTS

AMERIQUIP 800/824-9776 Circle No. 250

The Eagle 47 aerial lift from AmeriQuip, Laverne, CA, is a trailer-mounted, articulated lift with a 25-foot side reach and 47-foot working height. Features include positive bucket leveling, 360-degree continuous rotation, and excellent portability for easy access to a variety of tasks. Proportional control valve with neutral position interlock allows two-function operation and complete feathering capability. Comes with 8 hp gas engine; 24V DC electric motor, or dual power (gas and electric) options are available.

ALTEC 800/958-2555 Circle No. 251

LR and LB Series aerial devices combine smooth, efficient maneuverability with working heights to 60 feet. All equipment is backed by an

unsurpassed warranty, says Altec.

BIL-JAX, INC. 800/527-5333 Circle No. 252

The Workforce XLB-4232 Towable Boom Personal Lift has a maximum working height of 42 feet and has 300-pound capacity, 32-foot outreach, and 360-degree continuous rotation. Made by Bil-Jax, Archbold, Ohio, it has a steel, one-man cage; surge brakes, master slave leveling cage, outrigger safety switches, lower and upper controls and a 110v outlet to the platform. Optional fiberglass cage and cage cover are available. Comes with VHS safety video, safety harness and lanyard.

POLECAT INDUSTRIES 800/876-5322 Circle No. 253

Operator driven, self-propelled aerial lift sips fuel — it can run all day on just seven gallons of gas. The PCD-28 from Polecat, Miami, FL, weighs 2,480 pounds and will not

damage turf or landscape. It operates easily without a trailer for transport. The lift is hydraulically controlled by the operator in the bucket, allowing it to move in any direction with ease.

SIMON-TELELECT, INC. 605/882-4000 Circle No. 254

Hi-Rangers are known for their high quality and durability. The new XT-5 series provides arborists with two units from which to choose. The XT-52 provides 57 feet of working height; 42.2 feet of side reach in the work zone; 135 degrees lower boom and 270 degrees upper boom. The XT-55 provides 60 feet of working height; 42.2 feet on side reach in the work zone; 125 degrees lower boom; 26 degrees upper boom.

SNORKEL 816/364-0317 Circle No. 255

Articulating riser boom allows for up-and-over work on the ATB 60 from Snorkel, St. Joseph, MO. One of six families of lift available, the 60's telescoping main boom gives extra horizontal and vertical reach, and the six-foot articulating jib boom gives added horizontal reach. Main boom reaches 43 feet, for total work height of 66 feet. Comes in two-wheel or four-wheel drive models. While you're at it, call for Snorkel's handy Work Envelope Calculator, available free, which gives maximum and minimum reach available at various heights.

SPECIALTY EQUIPMENT 800/722-6543 Circle No. 256

Flexible aerial work platform has 36-foot working height, 17-foot reach and 298 pound platform capacity with telescoping boom fully



The ATB 60 from Snorkel comes in two-wheel or four-wheel drive models.

extended and 474 pounds retracted. The Leguan Plus, from Specialty Equipment, Indianapolis, IN, has zero-degree turning radius for easy maneuvering. It weighs just over a ton, so it is easy to transport. Its 34-inch width allows easy moving through gates. Unit is powered by a 13-hp Honda engine with optional LPG or electric power.

TIME MFG. CO. 817/776-0900 Circle No. 257

Low maintenance and long, dependable service life at a 60-foot working height is available with the Versalift VO-55, says Time. Standard features include continuous rotation, start/stop, full pressure hydraulic controls and more.

LM



The Workforce XLB-4232 Towable Boom Personal Lift has a steel one-man cage, surge brakes, and outrigger safety switches.