



Zero-radius mowers add year-round versatility

Not only do Grasshoppers take care of mowing jobs, they are also put to work to remove mountains of snow.

High in the Rockies, getting the most out of your maintenance equipment isn't simply preferable, it is a necessity, according to Vance S. Garfield, Parks Department Superintendent for Kaysville City, Utah.

The department's Grasshopper zero-radius mowers with several attachments offer the versatility any city needs in its equipment mix to reduce costs.

"Not only is every season's weather more extreme in the upper altitudes, but, just like other municipalities, our budgets aren't getting any bigger," says Garfield. "That's why we have to make the best of what we have. Needless to say, we can't afford to buy separate equipment for each season."

The department also has two Jacobsen Turf Cats with 72-inch flail decks and snowplows for two larger department

trucks. Garfield's crew uses the big equipment for cutting the wide open spaces where maneuverability is not as crucial. And the truck plows are necessary to clear city-owned parking lots and cemetery roadways during the winter.

"A lot of our cutting requires tight turns, reaching into tight spaces and cutting close to playground equipment, shrubbery, flower beds, trees and fences," says Garfield. "We just couldn't do it all in the time we have without zero-radius mowers."

The Kaysville Parks Department operates three Model 725 Grasshoppers and one Model 721 for grass mowing, leaf mulching and snow removal.

Getting around in tight places

"These machines—equipped as mowers, plows, brooms or snowthrowers—have ample power to handle a variety of



Snow removal attachments tips



Grasshopper's PTO-driven snowthrower attachment (shown on page SR12) is available in 48- and 60-inch models. It offers 'no-clog' performance, even in deep, heavy, wet snow. Above are some of the other Grasshopper attachments.

- ▶ Snow removal on sidewalks and other narrow walkways can be done quickly and efficiently with attachments like a V-Snowplow. V-Snowplows spread the load in two directions, decreasing stress on the machine and distributing snow drifts evenly to either side.
- ▶ A dozer blade affords the opportunity to surgically remove snow around items such as parked cars. Not only does this provide for maneuverability around delicate obstacles that must be untouched, but it keeps snow on the ground, a feature especially valuable in the removal of powder snow in high winds.
- ▶ A rotary broom can be ideal in dry snow up to 8" deep. Use a broom that can adjust to a 25° angle left or right for best results.
- ▶ For deep, heavy snow, a snowthrower attachment is highly recommended for most efficient and complete removal. With an adjustable discharge chute, and PTO-driven unit to avoid belt slippage and utilize more power from the engine to the auger, a snowthrower is indispensable.
- ▶ In exceptionally deep snow conditions (over 8'), one pass with a snowthrower on a high-level setting and a second pass at full depth will ensure maximum unit efficiency and cleaner results.
- ▶ A machine that allows you to change attachments with ease will obviously reduce downtime and expenses, and increase productivity.
- ▶ Cab enclosures in harsh weather allow drivers to work all day with fewer breaks.

Courtesy, The Grasshopper Company

situations from large snow drifts to relatively tall grass growth," says Garfield.

In addition to helping the park crews keep up with the feverish pace of grass growth in the spring and throughout the summer, maneuverability during the winter is also very important. Garfield says that zero-radius turning capabilities are just as essential to snow removal during the winter as plows are for the city's trucks.

"We have a lot of areas we take care of that simply can't be reached with the big equipment," he says. "The entire two-block center of the city surrounding our city offices are honeycombed with walkways and sidewalks. Our two Grasshopper mowers—a 21-hp unit and a 25-hp unit—can be equipped with snowthrower attachments. They're ideal for that kind of job. I can't imagine how long it would take with conventional hand-pushed snow removal equipment, but the zero-radius units are fast, and allow us to clear any amount of snow."

If the snow is 8 to 10 inches or more, Garfield adds, they set the snowthrowers high and make a couple of passes.

"There is no depth these machines can't handle if you either go slow the first pass or just set it high for the first pass and then repeat at a lower setting," he says.

Garfield says his crew is also responsible for keeping the city-owned cemetery clear of snow which is especially important since snow can be found on the ground well through Memorial Day.

"The snow tends to stay for long periods here in Kaysville City," says Garfield. "If there's a scheduled funeral, it has to be cleared in that one spot. If the snow can't be simply blown off with a blower,

we can use the snowthrowers because they don't scalp the grass under the snow like other units we have used. And their zero-radius ability makes removing snow around traditional monuments quick and efficient." □