



## Snow removal starts in summer

**R**on Brubaker says that if you're in the snow removal business, you have to prepare for it. That's why he starts in mid summer to gather all that he will need to keep his clients happy for the approaching winter season. This includes lining up customers and drivers, and making sure that he'll have enough product, including ice melters, once the first snow or freezing rain fall.

"Typically I try to have my contracts

out right around the first of September," says Brubaker of Brubaker Maintenance, Columbus, Ohio.

Brubaker, who has been in the commercial snow removal business since 1962, secures the contracts from industrial and commercial clients, then sub-contracts the actual plowing to a network of other drivers. Most operate small seasonal businesses and appreciate the extra income. He can have 22 trucks on the road at one time.

While rock salt is Brubaker's product of choice for parking lots and other large areas, he stocks more specialized

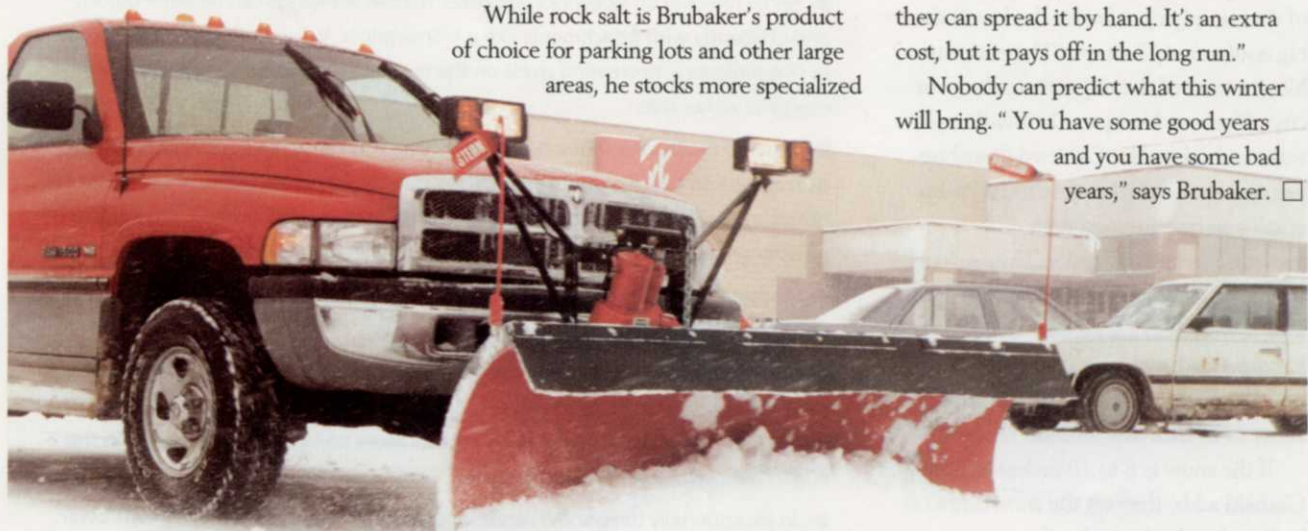
deicers for walkways or areas with decorative concrete.

"We have a lot of moisture and humidity in our area, and sometimes we get a black ice on sidewalks," he explains. Since his customers include banks and medical buildings, he has to have products that work without causing any additional problems.

For long sidewalks these deicers can be applied with a push spreader. Hand spreading from a 5-gallon bucket works fine in smaller areas.

"As a courtesy to some of the my customers, like banks, I'll put a bag of deicer in their foyers," explains Brubaker. "If I can't get there in time—like when it starts icing up and we're on the other side of town and can't get there right away—they can spread it by hand. It's an extra cost, but it pays off in the long run."

Nobody can predict what this winter will bring. "You have some good years and you have some bad years," says Brubaker. □



### Snow equipment check list

#### EQUIPMENT

##### 1. Check and change parts or fluids as needed:

- antifreeze
- radiator hoses
- air filter
- battery cables and water lines
- power steering fluid
- engine belts
- engine oil & filter
- brake fluid (if color has changed, replace)
- wiper blades
- top off washer fluid
- engine tune up
  - for gas engines: plugs & wires
  - for diesel engines: glow plugs.
- hydraulic oil, if applicable
- gear lube front and rear axles

##### 2. Change, regardless of when changed last:

- fuel filter
- automatic transmission fluid and filter
- transfer case oil
- hydraulic filter if applicable

##### 3. Front axle check

- inner spindle bearing
- U-joints (front axles, drive shaft, steering)
- wheel bearings, check and grease
- brakes and seals, adjust if necessary
- manual lockout hubs, clean and lube

##### 4. Rear axle check

- U-joints, drive shaft
- brakes and seals, adjust if necessary

#### PLOWS

1. Check fluid in pump and rams, check filter
2. Mount plow and check for movement
3. Check hoses and seals for nicks or leaks
4. Check plows for cracks
5. Check cutting blade for amount of wear left and make sure bolts are tight
6. Check carriage bolts to make sure they are tight

#### SPREADERS

1. Mount on truck
2. Check drive chain or gears. Lube them. Chain should be lubed in spring when put away.
3. Check hoses for nicks and leaks.
4. Check and adjust pattern.





## These plows built for heavy duty use

The all new Fisher 9' and 10' Municipal/Commercial plows were designed for today's new 'Super Duty'



style trucks. Now available with the Fisher trip-edge design, these plows can be used for parking lots, narrow streets and intersections.

Applications include the Ford F450SD, F550SD, F700 and F800; GM Kodiak/Topkick, both regular and low pro, and ICH 4700, 4800 and 4900. For more information, contact: FISHER ENGINEERING  
12 Water Street  
Rockland, ME 04841  
[www.fisherplows.com](http://www.fisherplows.com)  
Circle No. 278

## Tailgate spreaders handle various size jobs

The Western line of Pro-Flo tailgate spreaders offers the ice control professional a choice of two spreaders ideal for parking lots of any size. The Pro-Flo spreads dry #1 rock salt, calcium chloride and other ice melting material. The Pro-Flo2 tailgate spreader has a 2-stage delivery system with 16" belt conveyor to assure positive feed of all



materials including wet sand. For more information, contact: Western Products  
7777 N. 73rd Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53223  
[www.westernplows.com](http://www.westernplows.com)  
Circle No. 279

## Adjustable V-Plow can do it all



The 8.5' MVP plow, from Western Products, adapts to any plowing situation because it's hinged in the center to allow plowing in the scoop, 'V' or straight blade position. Each wing has a trip-edge; when the blade strikes an obstacle only the lower edge trips back. This plow has exclusive, handheld CabCommand control. The FloStat Hydraulic System, allows you to hydraulically lock the blade wings to act as one, along with double acting cylinders for efficient back-dragging. For more information, contact: Western Products  
7777 N. 73rd Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53223  
[www.westernplows.com](http://www.westernplows.com)  
Circle No. 280

## Snowthrower offers 'no-clog' performance



A snowthrower attachment for Grasshopper's full line of zero-radius mowers delivers "no-clog" performance, even in deep or heavy wet snows. A discharge spout rotates a full 180 degrees to deliver snow 20 to 30 feet away.

Available in 48-inch and 60-inch models, Grasshopper snowthrowers feature heavy-gauge welded steel construction, a high-speed 12-inch diameter auger with heavy-duty 3/16-inch flighting and a built-in heavy-duty scraper blade.

Grasshopper's exclusive Quik-D-Tatch" mounting system lets you change deck sizes or add attachments in minutes without tools.  
Circle No. 281

## Rotary brooms for all seasons

Grasshopper's PTO-driven rotary brooms handle dirt, debris and clear up to eight inches of snow, leaving a clean, dry path. Rotary brooms are ideal for



clearing sidewalks, parking lots and other public areas. Units can also be used to remove gravel from grassy areas near driveways and roads.

The 60-inch bidirectional model is effective for dethatching at half-throttle speed, while full-throttle speed works best for snow removal.

The 48-inch and 60-inch fixed-angle models operate at a 25 degree

right angle, while the 60-inch bidirectional model can be raised up to two inches and angled up to 25 degrees.  
Circle No. 282

## Multipurpose dozer blades

Grasshopper's multipurpose dozer blades move dirt, sand, gravel and snow, and are particularly effective in dislodging stubborn ice from sidewalks and drives.

Available in both 48-inch and 60-inch widths, Grasshopper's dozer blades are adjustable to allow operation straight ahead or 25 degrees left or right. An easy-to-use control lever permits pre-set height adjustment, while a quick response foot control allows intermittent height adjustment. A V-snow plow is also available for sidewalks and other open areas.  
Circle No. 283

For more information on these products, contact:  
The Grasshopper Company  
One Grasshopper Trail ¥  
P.O. Box 637  
Moundridge, KS 67107 U.S.A.  
[www.grasshoppermower.com](http://www.grasshoppermower.com)