



Engine side panels remove easily on Massey Ferguson tractors.



Deere tractors have 2-range transaxles for high and low operating speeds.



Model 1925 Boomer tractor powered by 34-hp diesel from New Holland. "Boomers" also available in 25, 27 and 29 engine hp.

TRACTORS

By CURT HARLER, Contributing Editor

There are a lot of factors to be considered when buying a tractor. Trash can be one of them, says J.L. Davis of Waco, TX. Davis, who owns a contract mowing and landscaping business, maintains a fleet of 18 tractors — all Massey Fergusons.

"People will trash about anything along the road," he says. Hitting old tires and other large items is, unfortunately, a commonplace test of the tractor's engine, body, driver's platform and PTO unit. That's why reliability and economy of operation are the top factors on Davis's checklist when shopping for tractors.

While most of the tractors Davis uses are equipped with mowers, landscape operators purchase tractors to do a variety of jobs and handle a variety of attachments. When buying a compact tractor, keep in mind that power can be delivered from the engine at three separate locations: the drawbar, the PTO (power take-off) shaft or through the hydraulic system. The drawbar is the simplest and usually works with pull-type equipment like a rake. The PTO delivers rotary motion at a constant speed, generally 540 rpm. The advantage of hydraulics is that they provide total control over output speed and easy reversal of motion without clutches or other overload devices.

Hydraulic systems generally are found on only the larger tractors in this size range. While they are wonderful for operating a range of equipment, they do present a whole new series of maintenance challenges, including pumps, fluid and hoses.

Davis has a final tip for any operation: maintain a good preventive maintenance program. "We change the oil and filter every 200 to 250 hours, regardless of how busy we are," he says. "And we're careful to keep the radiator airway clean."

If it's time to trade your old tractor in, here are several compact tractor models, designed with landscape operations in mind. Larger than riding mowers but smaller than farm equipment, these machines generally have an output in the 15-35 hp range.

AGCO CORP.
770-813-6000
www.allislawn.com

Agco Corp., Duluth, GA, produces the Massey Ferguson 1200 series of turf tractors. All feature quiet-running 3-cylinder diesel engines for power

and efficiency, with engine hp ranging from 15-38. Engine side panels remove easily, providing access for routine maintenance. All service points are conveniently located. The 1200 series comes with a variety of transmissions including 6 forward/2 reverse, 9 forward/3 reverse and 8 forward/2 reverse mechanical, plus a 16 forward/16 reverse synchro shuttle transmission.

Circle No. 250

JOHN DEERE
800-357-8233

www.deere.com

Three diesel models — the 755 with 20 engine, 15 pto hp; the 855 with 24 engine, 19 pto hp; and the 955 with 33 engine, 27 pto hp — all offer hydrostatic transmission with infinite speed selection. These compact utility tractors from John Deere are assembled in Augusta, GA. They have 2-range transaxles allowing high and low operating speeds, and offer dual-pedal, speed-and-direction control which leaves hands free for steering or operating other controls. Steering-assisted brakes are located on the left to allow independent wheel braking while right foot operates hydrostatic control.

Circle No. 251

INGERSOLL EQUIPMENT
920-582-5000

www.ingersoll-inc.com

The 3000 and 4000 series tractors from Ingersoll Equipment Co., Inc., Winneconne, WI, come with 14-20 hp engine options. Two of the models are offered with power steering. All come standard with hydraulic lift, and have a full line of hy-



Ingersoll tractors come standard with hydraulic lift.

draulically driven attachments available. Tillers, chipper/shredders, snow blowers, brush cutters, vacuums, log splitter, rear PTO's and mowers with mulching kits are available for all models.

Circle No. 252

KIOTI TRACTOR
919-291-7050
www.kioti.com

The Kioti LK2554 is a 4WD compact tractor from Daedong-USA, Wilson, NC. It comes with a 3-cylinder, water-cooled, 4-cycle diesel that delivers 26 hp. Unit has eight forward speeds and two reverse, a 2100-pound 3-point hitch and 7.34 gpm hydraulics. ROPS, power steering, differential lock, front and rear pto, hand and foot throttles and adjustable drawbar are standard. Options available include front end loaders, backhoes, mowers and snowblowers.

Circle No. 253

KUBOTA
888-4-KUBOTA



Kubota's 20-hp (at the PTO), 4WD tractor features single-pedal control

New for 1999, with 20-hp at the PTO is the 4-wheel drive B2710HSD from Kubota, Torrance, CA. It is powered by a 4-cylinder E-TVCS diesel engine. Innovative combustion chamber design delivers maximum power with minimum noise and low emissions. This unit allows single-pedal control of tractor speed and direction change between forward and reverse without clutching. Its hydrostatic transmission, color-coded controls and backlit instrument panel and ISO-mounted full floating deck add to operator comfort. Both rear-

and mid-live PTOs are standard. Tandem hydraulic pump boosts power levels to that of larger tractors.

Circle No. 254

NEW HOLLAND
717-355-1371
www.newholland.com

The new 25- and 30-series Boomer compact tractors from New Holland, PA, are powered by 3-cylinder diesels and offer fingertip controls. Made at a new factory in Dublin, GA, they come in 25, 27.3, 29 and 34 engine hp.

Pictured on page 32 is the top-of-line Model 1925, powered by a 34-hp diesel and available with hydrostatic live PTO or 9x3 gear-drive transmission, 540-rpm PTO, and 4-WD. All units are available with fixed or folding ROPS.

Circle No. 255

POWER KING
800-262-1191

The 1600 series tractors from Power King, Mendota, IL, are all shaft-driven, so there is no belt slipage. The 1620GV is a 20-hp, 4-



Power King tractors are shaft driven. The UT 622HV is powered by a 22-hp Kohler engine.

speed model; the 1622HV is powered by a 22-hp Kohler Command V-Twin engine and has a hydrostatic transmission; the UT 622HV is a feature-rich 22-hp unit with foot-control hydrostatic transmission, front hydraulic ports and a front PTO to drive a broom, blower or shaft-driven mower deck. Frame is made

of 2x3x1/4-inch channel steel and the unit has 15.75-inch clearance for the roughest terrain.

Circle No. 256

STEINER
330-828-0200
www.steinerturf.com

From Dalton, OH, comes the Steiner 525. Powered by a 23.5-hp Kubota water-cooled engine, and



Steiner's Quick-Hitch system allows easy attachment of equipment like mowers.

equipped with four-wheel drive, it is operated by foot pedals to keep the hands free to do other tasks. Unit

weighs 1,520 pounds and has a turn radius of just 63 inches. Works with Steiner's Quick-Hitch system which allows easy attachment of a range of equipment from mowers to bucket scoops to snow blowers. Also available are a series of 16- and 20-hp models designed for the turf market. **LM**

Circle No. 257