



Kubota Tractor offers two new 18-hp riders, one gas-powered, the other diesel. Mid-mount mower available in 48 or 54 inches.



Excel Industries continues to offer unmatched traction and stability with its new all-wheel-drive 3400. Hustler uses the easy-to-use H-bar steering system.



Encore's new 61-in. Powler Mid Cut is powered by a 22-hp, liquid-cooled Kawasaki. The unit rides on 24-in. Super Turf tires.

TEST DRIVE A RIDER

If you want maximum production from a new riding mower, take it for a spin before you open your wallet

By CURT HARLER/ Contributing Editor

Don't confine the idea of a test drive to trucks and cars. Any time you buy a riding mower for your operation, have a variety of workers — tall and short, male and female — take the mower for a test spin.

When Michael Rohlman, MR Service, Indianapolis, IN, went to buy a zero-radius turn riding mower, he tested equipment from a half-dozen manufacturers. About half of his crew is female, so ease of operation, all-around visibility and operator comfort were key buying points. "Price was not an issue," he says firmly. "I was willing to pay to get a quality machine."

The levers on a zero-radius mower are constantly in play, and ease of pushing became a prime concern. There were toggle models, between-legs and standard. The women did not like spring-loaded since they always had resistance and they found it fatiguing. The hydraulic buffer style, like a shock absorber, was the favorite since it did not keep coming back to neutral. Although fascinated by it at first, none of his crew liked the between-legs for long-term use.

He checked to be sure the unit's profile gave the operator excellent visibility all around from a seated position. He wanted to be sure the seat adjusted to everyone's size. Mower speed became a consideration. "Going 10 mph is the maximum realistic operating speed on grass," Rohlman says. Anything faster is good only for transport because machines bounce so much that quality of cut is affected. "Give an operator a machine that will go 13 mph and they will use the speed. But you end up with an inferior cut," he says.

Drop the mower deck to its lowest setting and see what its scalping potential is. Run it along some side hills and see how stable it is, especially if it will be pulling a cart for clippings. Rohlman says he twice has rolled a machine. "It's not a good feeling," he understates.

BUSH HOG
334/460-2595

www.bushhog.com

The new line of Zero Turn Mowers from Bush Hog get maximum machine performance from a choice of 18-, 22- and 25-hp Kohler Command air-cooled engines or a 22-hp Kawasaki water-cooled model. Mowers have infinitely variable speeds to 8 mph forward and 6 mph reverse. They come with choice of 48-, 54- or 60-in. deck widths, heavy duty gear boxes and four anti-scalp rollers. An exclusive torsion bar makes it easy to adjust deck height or to flip the deck 90 degrees with the lift bar.

Circle No. 250

DIXIE CHOPPER
800/233-7596

www.dixiechopper.com

The new D series offers the fuel economy and reliability of a Yanmar diesel engine combined with Dixie Chopper performance. Two models are available with either 26 hp and a 60- or 72-in. deck, or 50 hp and a 72-in. deck.

Circle No. 251

DIXON INDUSTRIES
800/264-6075

www.dixon-ztr.com

The Dixon 5022 zero-radius turn commercial mid-mount mower is powered by a 22-hp Kohler Command engine. It is available with 42-, 50- and 60-in. deck options with 1.5- to 4.5-in. cut heights. Weighing between



Dixon 5022 is easy on the turf.

615 to 685 lbs., it is easy on the turf. Its Hydro Gear hydrostatic transmission has separate fans and charge pump. Mulching, catching and snow blade accessories are available.

Circle No. 252

ENCORE
800/267-4255

www.encoreequipment.com

The new 61-inch Prowler Mid Cut from Encore has dual-path hydrostatic drive with larger, 21-series hydro pumps. The pumps prolong mower life and ensure quality cuts even in wet grass at a faster speed. Deck is 5.5 in. deep. Powered by a 22-hp, liquid-cooled Kawasaki, the mower rides on 24-in. Super Turf Tread tires at speeds up to 10 mph. The low-maintenance, one-inch, solid-steel blade spindle has no grease zerk.

Circle No. 253

EXCEL INDUSTRIES
316/327-4911

www.excelhustler.com

From Excel comes an all-wheel drive, front mount model: the 3400 Rear Steer 4x4. The combination of limited-slip differential and all-the-time 4-WD offers unmatched traction and stability. Like all 3000 models, this Hustler uses the easy-to-use H-Bar steering system.

Circle No. 254

EXMARK
402/223-4010

www.exmark.com

Get a lot of work done fast with the Lazer-Z from Exmark Mfg. Co. Unit comes with 60- or 72-in. deck sizes. Enhanced airflow baffles and powerful discharge delivers a precision cut even at high speeds and under tough conditions. Unit can be used to mulch, bag or discharge. Ground speeds to 9.5 mph forward and 6.0 in reverse increase productivity. Hydraulically dampened steering provides smooth control. Electric start, separate choke and throttle controls, hour meter and heavy-duty electric blade clutch are standard.

Circle No. 255

FERRIS INDUSTRIES
800/933-6175

www.ferrismowers.com

The new ProCut-Z from Ferris Industries is a zero-radius turn riding mower. Dual-point, floating front axle keeps all four wheels on the ground even on rough terrain. Independent suspension maximizes



Ferris unit with floating axle

operator comfort, traction and mower life. Powered by a 25-hp Kohler and kept running by twin 4-gallon fuel tanks, it offers independent left and right speed control levers, seat actuated engine kill, blade/clutch safety switch and neutral and parking brake safety circuit. The 52- or 61-in. decks adjust in quarter-inch increments from 1.5 to 5 inches. This is the unit Michael Rohlman's staff chose.

Circle No. 256

THE GRASSHOPPER CO.
316/345-8621

Looking for maximum reliability in the dirty, dusty conditions typical in off-highway mowing? The G2 700 Series zero-radius outfront mowers from Grasshopper are protected by a high-efficiency 7-micron absolute filter. The liquid-cooled diesel or gas engines reach forward speeds up to 8.5 mph. Cutting widths of 44, 48, 52, 61 and 72 in. are available. Quik-D-Tach mounting system adds attachments in minutes.

Circle No. 257

GRAVELY
800/472-8359

www.gravelly.com

Check out the all-gear, direct-drive transmissions on the Professional-G Series of riders from Gravelly. They all offer 8 forward and 4 reverse gears with instant change suited to any job. Both 50- and 60-in. decks are available. The 16G, 18G and 20G have Kohler Magnum 4-cycle twin-cylinder engines. The 16G Vanguard comes with a Briggs & Stratton Vanguard engine. Electric start and hydraulic attachment lift are standard on all.

Circle No. 258

GREAT DANE
812/246-8770

The zero-radius turn Surfer from Great Dane Power Equipment comes with 48-, 52- and 61-in. cutter decks. Cutting height is adjustable from 1.5 to 5.5 in. with adjustable height real wheels and caster wheels plus cutter blade spacers. Machine is powered by a 16-hp Vanguard, a 18-hp Kohler and Vanguard-B&S with electric start or a 22-hp Kohler electric start. Dual hydro-gear BDP-



Great Dane Surfer easy to ride

10L pumps, dual Parker/Ross wheel motors with tapered axles and twin horizontal levers for steering and travel control make it easy to run.

Circle No. 259

HECKENDORN EQUIPMENT
800/835-7805

"Instant Up" deck lift to clear obstructions and reduce damage to turf and machine is one of the nice features of the H36 from Heckendorn. Designed for tight mowing in places like cemeteries, this 36-in. mower is available with nine engine options from 10 to 16 hp and with electric or recoil start. Three-speed forward and reverse manual transmission allows speed to match cutting area. Chain drive is standard, and "quik-adjust" chain idler makes adjustments easy.

Circle No. 260

JACOBSEN-TEXTRON
888/922-TURF

www.jacobsen.textron.com

Cut a 92-in. swath with the new Jacobsen HR-4600 Turbo mower. With a 46-hp Kubota turbo diesel

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powering the machine at 7.5 mph, an operator can mow 6.5 acres per hour. Unit is available with 2- or 4-wheel drive. Each of the three all-hydraulic mower decks features



Jacobsen-Textron turbo unit

twin 18-in. blades with cut heights from one to four inches. Grass is rear-discharged. Decks fold to 60-in. transport width. Accessories include 2-post ROPS, grass or leaf mulchers, sun canopy, light kit and cruise control.

Circle No. 261

JOHN DEERE

800/537-8233

www.deere.com

Check out the zero-turn radius F620 from John Deere. Its low center of gravity provides hillside stability and the 80-in. length gives maneuverability in tight areas. Deck flips 90 degrees for easy blade access. Front-mount mower gets under bushes and fences. Unit is powered by a 20-hp, overhead-valve, 4-cycle, gas engine. Cut widths of 48, 54 or 60 in. are available.

Circle No. 262

KUBOTA TRACTOR

888/4-KUBOTA

Two new models, the TG1860 and TG1860G from Kubota, come equipped with the company's liquid-cooled V-Twin 18-hp gas engine. The 1860 is diesel, the 1860G is gas powered. Both feature clutchless hydraulic transmission and a suspended mid-mount mower, available in either 48- or 54-in. width. Dial and gas-assist lift, operated from driver's seat, makes adjusting cut height easy. Optional attachments include grass catcher, front blade, snow blower and dethatcher.

Circle No. 263

LESCO

440/333-9250

www.lesco.com

Built to tractor specifications, the LCR2200 and LCR7400, feature two-pedal hydrostatic controls, visible outfront mowing deck and independent wheel brakes. The LCR2200 has a 22-hp diesel engine, two-wheel drive with differential lock and a 60-in. mowing deck with offset side discharge. The LCR7400 has a 27-hp diesel en-



Lesco LCR2200 and LCR7400 are built to tractor specs.

gine, automatic 4-WD and a 60- or 72-in. offset side discharge cutting tunnel deck.

Circle No. 264

MTD PRO

877/MTD-PRO1

www.mtdproducts.com

The zero-turn MMZ is the flagship of the MTD Pro line. Mower deck features one-handed height adjustment from 1.5 to 5.5 in. Powered by a 25-hp Kohler, OHV V-twin engine, it has a 9 mph transport speed, 4.5 mph in reverse. Unit is just 78 in. long, so it takes up less room in trailers, while the big 10-gallon fuel tank means longer running times. Operator seat has 5-in. adjustment for comfortable operation.

Circle No. 265

SCAG POWER EQUIPMENT

920/387-0100

www.scag.com

Work long and fast with the Turf Tiger from Scag. Its 10-gallon fuel tank and 10-mph ground speed, combined with wide-track stance and 23-in. high traction tires makes work easy. Innovative shaft-drive cutter deck features 90-degree gear box system. Either 52- or 61-in.



The wide track Scag Turf Tiger

decks offer cut heights from 1 to 6 inches. All idler arms are spring-loaded for continuous belt adjustment and maximum life.

Circle No. 266

SIMPLICITY

414/377-5450

www.simplicitymfg.com

New this spring is the 24.5-hp, diesel model, Legacy garden tractor. The Briggs & Stratton DM950D, with fuel injection and 3-cylinder liquid cooled design, sits on a C-channel frame and rides above a heavy-duty cast-iron front axle. Free-floating shaft driven mower decks are available in 48- or 60-in. widths. Cut



Snapper's twin-stick steering

New for 1999 is a twin-stick model for the Pro Cruiser line from Snapper. The ZMT2500KA gives those who prefer twin-stick steering over a single joy-stick an option for zero-radius turn machines. With a 25-hp Kohler Pro Command engine, the unit has a ground speed up to 10 mph. Comes with a 52- or 61-in. mid-mount cutting deck. Also new for 1999 is an optional 6-cubic ft. grass catcher with belt drive fan assist assembly and single-lever lid release.

Circle No. 268



Free-floating mower decks offered for Simplicity Legacy tractor

height is electrically adjustable from 1 to 5 in. Unit can be fitted with any of 26 optional attachments, including rear PTO, plows and more.

Circle No. 267

SNAPPER

888/SNAPPER

www.snapper.com

THE TORO COMPANY

612/888-8801

www.toro.com

The Z-Master Compact Mid-Mount ZRT from Toro, is a smaller version of the Z-Master Z200 series. Unit zips along at speeds up to 8.1 mph (cutting 3.7 acres per hour),

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yet has excellent side-hill stability. It is available with 44- and 52-in. decks. Recycler kits are available. Available with 17- and 19-hp Kawasaki or 20-hp Kohler Command Pro engines. Cutting height is

adjustable in 0.25-in. increments from 1 to 5 inches. Backed by a 1-year limited, 2-year engine and hydro system, and 3-year spindle assembly warranty.

Circle No. 269



Woods Equipment Mow'n Machine cuts without scalping.

WOODS EQUIPMENT

815/732-2141

www.woodsonline.com

The 6225 Mow'n Machine from Woods, is the latest in the company's line of zero-radius turn mowers. It comes with a 25-hp Kohler engine and an offset 48-, 52-, 61- or new 72-inch deck. Floating deck kit allows free movement over terrain while remaining parallel to the ground. This reduces scalping at higher ground speeds. Grass collection systems are available in 7.5- 15- and 25-cubic ft. models.

Circle No. 270

YAZOO/KEES

800/723-9496

www.yazookees.com

New for 1999, the Mini-Max from Yazoo/Kees, is a smaller version of the standard ZT Max. It has the same zero-radius turn, 10-gallon



Yazoo/Kees Mini-Max is new.

fuel capacity, dampered steering control, state-of-the-art hydraulics and warranty as its big brother. But it is built for narrower cutting widths and tighter budgets. ZT Max offers 1.5- to 5-in. cutting heights with on-the-go adjustment.

Circle No. 271



\$3,750

"...over 250,000 sq. ft.
every day and
I LOVE MY JOB
because of this
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Sprayer-Spreader!"

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Custom Care, Chadds Ford, PA

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Circle 128



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