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The mid-sized Walker Rider is one of the more compact zero-turn radius mowers available. Five Walker tractor models are available.



Z-Trak F620 from John Deere features a low center of gravity that makes it stable on hillsides and maneuverable in tight spots.

SCORE A ZERO, WIN AT MOWING

BY CURT HARLER/ Contributing Editor

Anyone who has spent a few hours driving a mower around shrubs, weaving around path lighting or going through other tight areas understands that a mower that has a zero-turn radius is a godsend.

If you're responsible for working in the field, you'll sing the praises of a zero-turn mower's maneuverability. That means less time cutting and less time on foot following the mower with a weed whacker.

If you're the landscape operation's chief mechanic and dog owner, however, it is likely that you will also appreciate the smaller size of the zero-turn mower. That means more equipment can be placed on a shorter trailer. Most zero-radius turn mowers are 61 in. to 80 in. long, a substantial savings over the full-sized four-wheelers that can eat up an extra foot or more on transportation equipment. It also may mean that a smaller trailer can be used on jobs that require only mowing equipment, while larger, heavier twin-axle trailers can be held back for moving skid-steer loaders to

job sites where the equipment demand is greater.

Cutting decks come in all the typical sizes and most companies make a full line of attachments and accessories for their zeros.

ARIENS
920/756-2141
www.ariens.com

Ariens offers its EZ Rider™ EZR1648 powered by a 16-hp Briggs Vanguard engine. This dual hydro-drive, 647-lb unit features a 48-in. cutting deck. Its pivoting front axle provides the operator with a smooth comfortable ride.

Circle No. 250

BLACK ROCK MFG.
203/259-6750

This zero-turning radius mower is made of tough 10-gauge deck material with seven-gauge sides. Units with cutting decks of 48 in. or 52 in. come with engine options including the 17-, 21- or 23-hp Kawasaki twin cylinder

with electric start; or choose a 25-hp Kawasaki on the 61-in. deck model. All have a 10-gallon fuel tank to keep workers busy.

Circle No. 251

BOB-CAT
414/637-6711

www.ransomes.com

The Bob-Cat ZT 100 zero-turn radius riding mower features independent power and control to each wheel for enhanced maneuverability. Unit offers a 41-in. cutting swath and is powered by a 20-hp Kohler Command V-Twin air-cooled gas engine. Noncavitating hydraulic traction dampers make for easier operation in tight places or on hilly, rolling terrain. A 200-series also is available with 61-in. cut and 22- or 25-hp engines.

Circle No. 252

BUNTON
414/637-6711

With a 31-hp, liquid-cooled Briggs & Stratton Daihatsu gas engine, the new Bunton BZT31 is designed for long life. It has a 72-in. cutting deck to maximize productivity and an optional ROPS system. The cut height is infinitely adjustable



Bunton BZT31

from one to five inches and the mower has an electronic deck life and adjustment system that controls height by flipping a switch. All components in the unit are designed for easy maintenance and service.

Circle No. 253

BUSH HOG
334/460-2595
www.bushhog.com

The new line of Zero Turn Mowers from Bush Hog comes with a choice of 18-, 22- or 25-hp Kohler Command air-cooled engines, or a 22 hp Kawasaki water-cooled



Bush Hog's zero-turn mowers with 18-, 22- and 25-hp Kohlers.

model. Mowers come with choice of 48-, 54- or 60-in. deck widths, heavy duty gear boxes and four anti-scalp rollers. They have infinitely variable speeds to 8 mph forward and 6 mph reverse. The exclusive torsion bar makes deck height adjustment easy and allows operator to flip the deck 90 degrees with the lift bar.

Circle No. 254

JOHN DEERE
800/537-8233
www.deere.com

Stable on hillsides and maneuverable in tight spots, the zero-turn radius Z-Trak F620 from John Deere has a low center of gravity. It is 80-in. long and comes with cut widths of 48-, 54- or 60-in. mower deck flips 90° for easy blade access. The front-mount mower gets under bushes and fences. The unit is powered by a 20-hp overhead-valve 4-cycle gas engine.

Circle No. 255

DIXON INDUSTRIES
800/264-6075
www.dixon-ztr.com

The ZTR-7025 zero-radius turn mower, the newest commercial unit



The Dixon ZTR-7025 mower

from Dixon Industries, is powered by a 25-hp Kohler Command engine. The full-floating deck is available with 52-, and 60-in. options with 1.5 in. to 4.5 in. cut heights. It offers easy underside access for blade maintenance. The 7025 can hit 10 mph on open ground, making short work of big mowing jobs. Accessories for mulching, grass catching and pushing snow are available.

Circle No. 256

ENCORE
402/228-4255

The compact Z-series mowers are compact, midmount riders in 42-, 48- and 52-in. versions. All have zero-radius turning and direct hydraulic drive. Decks are reinforced with specially positioned steel channels to reduce vibration and give a



Encore Z-52 model

level cut. High-lift blades, anti-scalp rollers and large turf tires protect the grass. The Z-52, shown here, has a 20-hp Vanguard V-twin engine.

Circle No. 257

EXMARK
402/223-4010
www.exmark.com

Exmark's new 52-in. Lazer Z Horsepower offers a tiny footprint with its zero-turn maneuverability and exceptional traction and stability. The ultra-high blade-tip speed, high-lift blades, and flow-control baffles combine to deliver a quality cut even at high mowing speeds. The low center of gravity and wide



The Turf Tracer

drive-tire stance, along with the exclusive deck forward design, offer superior trimming control and visibility—the operator can see the tires from the seated position.

Circle No. 258

FERRIS INDUSTRIES
800/933-6175
www.independentsuspension.com

The new ProCut-Z from Ferris Industries has a dual-point floating front axle that keeps all four wheels



ProCut-Z

in contact with the ground even on uneven terrain. Independent suspension maximizes 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. Comes with 52- or 61-in. deck, adjustable in quarter-inch increments from 1.5 inches to 5 inches.

Circle No. 259

THE GRASSHOPPER CO.
316/345-8621

With forward speeds up to 8.5 mph, the Model G2-700 Series zero-radius mower from Grasshopper



G2-700 from Grasshopper

per gives a quality cut in record time. The Gemini2 Dual-Path Hydrostatic Drive delivers reliability in dirty, dusty conditions. Liquid-cooled diesel or gas engines are fed by an 8-gallon fuel tank. Cutting widths of 44-, 48-, 52-, 61- or 72-in. are available. Quik-D-Tach mounting system adds attachments in minutes.

Circle No. 260

GRAVELY
800/472-8359
www.gravelly.com

Check out the reduced maintenance times on the 260Z zero-turn mower from Gravelly. Tungsten carbide-coated blades stay sharp and the XL Spindles reduce time spent greasing. The Air-Flo Deck expels clippings faster using a 21-in. wide discharge tunnel. A nine-gallon fuel tank keeps the mower going all day long. The manufacturer says those



260Z mower from Gravelly

features cut daily maintenance time by up to 30 minutes. That means the mower pays for itself in under 24 months.

Circle No. 261

GREAT DANE EQUIPMENT
812/246-8770

Great Dane offers several innovative zero-turn radius mowers—the Surfer hydro walk-behind, the Chariot (cutters decks of 52 and 61 in.) and the Chariot, Jr., (decks of 48 in. and 52 in. wide). The Chariots feature center control levers, low seat height for maximum stability on hills, excellent visibility for trimming and an extra wide wheel stance.

Circle No. 262

HUSTLER
800/395-4757
www.excelhustler.com

Hustler has just introduced its first rear-steer, out-front rider in three 3000-series models. The unit is available in 3200 zero-turn, 3200 rear steer, or 3400 rear steer 4x4 configurations. The 3200s are pow-



3000-series from Hustler

ered by a Kubota 23-hp diesel. The 3400 is 28 hp. All of these 3000-series tractors use H-Bar Steering, similar to motorcycle steering. Speed and direction controls are hand-operated. Extra-high-lift BacVac catcher, tractor-mounted edger, 55-in. snow thrower and assorted mowing decks are available.

Circle No. 263

LASTEC
317/271-4223
www.lastec.com

The Model 425D Articulator is an 8-ft. wide, 38-hp diesel zero-turn radius mower from LasTec. It features four individual 25-in. articulating mower decks. The firm's patented belt drive system lets mower decks float over contoured turf without scalping or missing

grass. It can be configured to mulch or for side discharge. It comes with hydraulic mower deck lift system, headlights and flashers for night work and a certified ROPS.

Circle No. 265

LESCO
800/321-5325

The Viper is a midmount, zero-turn mower in a compact 78-in. package. Designed with one-piece



Viper features anti-scalp deck

welded square tubular steel frame for strength and rigidity, it is powered by a 23-hp Kawasaki twin-cylinder OHV power plant. Comes with a 54-in. or 60-in. anti-scalp floating deck and cut heights from 1.5 inches to 5.5 inches. Unitized hydraulic pump/motors provide power and speeds up to 8.6 mph forward, 4.3 mph in reverse.

Circle No. 266

MTD PRO
877/MTD-PRO1
www.mtdproducts.com

The zero-turn MTD 1852 Pro Widetrack is the newest member of the MTD Pro line. The mower features an 18-hp Vanguard



MTD 1852 Pro

V-Twin Engine and 52-in. fixed fabricated cutting deck. Dual hydrostatic transmission allows on-the-go tracking adjustments, and electric start and backup recoil mean there is no excuse for not getting to work. Tapered roller bearings in the spindles provide added reliability. Optional bagger and mulching kit is available.

Circle No. 267

HOWARD PRICE TURF EQUIPMENT
636/532-7000

The Blazer 360Z leads the line of zero-radius mowers from Howard Price. Units are available with 52-, 60- and 72-in. cuts and decks are offset to the left for better trimming around trees. Extra-wide throat allows even grass discharge. Floating front axle provides superb cutting flotation, operator comfort and reduces chances of frame breakage. Units are powered with either a 22- or a 25-hp Kohler, or a 23-hp Kawasaki engine.

Circle No. 268

RICH MFG.
765/436-2744

Whether you want to walk or ride, the Convertible is the one machine that lets you do both. This hydro walk-behind converts to a zero-turn rider just by pulling a pinch It comes with 48- 52- or 61-inch deck and choice of Kawasaki or Kohler engines. Grass catcher, sprayer, aerator, thatcher or Convert-A-Barrow options are available.

Circle No. 269

SCAG
920/387-0100
www.scag.com

Tame out-of-control grass with the



Scag Advantage Deck

Scag Advantage deck. Designed for Turf Tiger and Sabre Tooth Tiger zero-turn riders (as well as the walk-behind and three-wheel rider) from Scag, this deck eliminates stringers and reduces the need for double-cutting. Its air flow design stands up tall, wry grasses and cuts them cleanly. The deck gives a finished look, even with tough, tall grasses like southern Bahiagrass. Scag also offers a zero-turn walk-behind with decks from 36 in. to 72 in.

Circle No. 270

SNAPPER 888/SNAPPER www.snapper.com

The Pro Cruiser line now has a twin-stick model. The ZMT2500KH lets those who prefer twin-stick steering over a single joy-stick find a comfortable option in a zero-turn radius machine. It comes with a 52- or 61-in. midmount cutting deck. With a 25-hp Kohler Pro Command engine, the unit has a



The ZMT2500KH Snapper

ground speed up to 10 mph. Also new for 1999 is an optional 6-cu. ft. grass catcher with belt drive fan assist assembly and single-lever lid release.

Circle No. 271

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 has a cutting height adjustable in quarter-inch increments from 1 in. to 5 in. It operates at speeds up to 8.1 mph, which translates to a cutting speed of 3.7 acres per hour. Machine boasts excellent side-hill stability. It is available with 44- and 52-in. decks and recycler kits are available. Units are powered by either a 17- or 19-hp Kawasaki or 20-hp Kohler Command Pro engines. All



Z-Master from Toro boasts excellent side-hill stability.

models are backed by a 1-year limited, 2-year engine and hydro system and 3-year spindle assembly warranty.

Circle No. 272

WALKER MOWERS 303/221-5614

The mid-sized Walker Rider is one of the more compact zero-turn radius mowers available, designed to do the work of a mid-sized walk-behind mower with the increased productivity of a rider. Five tractor models are available ranging from 11 to 25 hp and with choice of gas or diesel engine. Five mower decks can be used, ranging from 36 in. to 62 in. with grass collection, side discharge or mulching capability.

Circle No. 273

WOODS EQUIPMENT 815/732-2141 www.woodsonline.com

Two new members have joined the Mow'n Machine line. The



The M2250 from Woods

M2250 has a 22-hp Kohler engine and a 50-in. deck and the M2560 has a 25-hp Kohler engine and an offset 60-in. deck. Both have a "user-centered" design that includes adjustable-sus-

ing zero-turn radius model from Yazoo/Kees. New this year, it is a smaller version of the company's ZT Max. Mini-Max comes with a 10-gallon fuel tank, damped steering control, state-of-the-art hydraulics and the same warranty as its big brother. Although built for narrower cutting widths and tighter budgets, it still provides full 1.5-inch to 5-inch cutting heights and on-the-go adjustment.

Circle No. 275

YAZOO/KEES 800/723-9496 www.yazookees.com

The Mini-Max in the hottest-sell-



The Mini-Max from Yazoo