

Mower madness

New designs in walk-behinds

BY CURT HARLER/

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Next month is time to celebrate *Landscape Management's* May Mower Month. The first lawn mower was patented on May 9, 1899. Today, the world of walk-behind mowers ranges from 20-in. hand-pushed units to ground-covering self-propelled workhorses with transmissions and independent hand brakes. Both can be found on the typical landscaper's truck.

As the old adage reminds us, the key to getting the most out of a walk-behind unit is not to send a boy to do a man's job — or vice-versa. Out in the field crew members, especially the newer ones, tend to use the big units for every job. They are more impressive to use and, being self-propelled, go faster and take less effort. However,

they also have a disturbing tendency to eat bedding plants and miss tight areas close to buildings, headstones, or trees.

On the other hand, it's a real waste of time to use a small walk-behind or trim mower on any sizable area of turfgrass.

While this may seem obvious to a manager with 10 year's experience, it's quite common to see workers using the wrong tool on a job site. Especially early in the season, instruct or remind the crews to tailor the size of the mower to the size of the job. The result will be lower fuel expenses, more efficient use of labor and fewer customer complaints.

ground speed is 8.5 mph.
Circle #263

FERRIS INDUSTRIES
800/933-6175

www.ferrisindustries.com

The HydroWalk DD from Ferris Industries, Munnsville, NY, features dual unitized Eaton hydros for zero-turn mobility and faster mowing. These transmissions are backed with a 3-year warranty, on top of the full 2-year machine warranty. The HydroWalk has a wide, low stance for top traction



What to look for

- ▶ **Height adjustability of deck/blades**
- ▶ **Easy grip on throttle handles**
- ▶ **Safety features like auto-shutoff**
- ▶ **A sizable fuel tank**
- ▶ **How easy is it to start?**

BLACK ROCK
800/314-8984

Black Rock Mfg., Louisville, KY assembles mowers with quality components like the Peerless heavy-duty five-speed transmission and decks of 7-gauge steel. Three hydrostatic drive models come in 48-, 52- and 61-in. widths. Choose from a 14-hp OHV Kawasaki or 17-hp Twin OHV engine. Dual reservoirs with filters to eliminate cross-contamination, cold start, flexible 2-piece deck and frame are standard. Top

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and stability. Large, 18-in. drive tires give good traction in adverse conditions. Deck options include 48-, 52- or 61-in. The SD comes with 36- or 48-in. decks.

Circle #264

ENCORE MANUFACTURING

800/467-4255

www.encoreequipment.com

The Hydro Pro line from Encore Manufacturing Co., Beatrice, NB, is designed to work all day with its hydrostatic drive and large fuel tank. Units come in cutting widths from 36 in. to 60 in. Tough, 7-gauge wear strips and steel support channels assure that the mower can stand up to commercial use. Engine choices include 14-hp and 19-hp models.

Circle #265

EXCEL

800/395-4757

www.excelhustler.co

The Hustler Hydro walk behind from Excel Industries, Hesston, KS, eliminates the need for



Hustler

trimming with H-Bar steering. All functions – speed, forward/reverse, turning, breaking – are controlled with one handlebar. Unit comes with 37-, 48- or 54-in. full floating deck and is powered by either a 15-hp or a 17-hp Kawasaki engine. Mowers have the largest standard tires in the industry.

Circle #266

GREAT DANE

704/846-6617

The Gateway dual-hydro walk-behind from Great Dane, Sellersburg, IN, is 36-in. wide to scoot through gates with the wing up and a full 52-in. wide with wing deployed. It comes with a 17-hp Kawasaki or 18-hp Kohler E/S engine, and moves at seven mph forward and 2.5 in reverse. Designed for curb edge mowing, cutting under pine tree limbs and other jobs requiring maneuverability, both have 5-gal. fuel

tanks to keep going all day.

Circle #267

EXMARK

402/223-6300

www.exmark.com

The Metro walk-behind from Exmark Mfg. Co., Beatrice, NE, combines the 32-, 36- or 48-in. TriVantage deck with dependable, gear-drive traction. A new 15-hp. Kawasaki V-twin



Exmark

engine runs smoother and with less vibration than single-cylinder engines. Drive belts can be changed without tools, and light grip tension, height-adjustable handle and easy-to-reach padded knee shifter increase operator comfort.

Circle #268

HONDA

678/339-2600

www.honda.com

The new HRC7113TXA TruGear mower from American Honda Motor Co., Alpharetta, GA, comes in two versions: the 36- and 48-in. Both are powered by a Honda 13-hp OHV engine with oil filter and feature a transistorized magneto ignition. Mowers allow seven positions on the deck from 1.5 in. to 4.5 inches. They have a gear mesh transmission with ball-bearing supported axles with four forward and one reverse speed. Mowers come standard with hour meter.

Circle #269

HOWARD PRICE

314/532-7000

The Turf Blazer from Howard Price, Chesterfield, MO, has an easy-to-remove deck cover and double-wide traction belt for extra grip in wet conditions. Deck is 7-gauge on the side,

10-gauge top. The 32- and 36-in. models handle tight areas, while the 48- and 52-in. ones handle flat-out mowing production, allowing one person to cut over 18 acres a day. Fingertip control of each wheel brake gives maximum control.

Circle #270

JOHN DEERE

800/537-8233

www.deere.com

Several enhancements to the 14-hp HD45 and 17-hp HD75 make them easier to use. John-Deere, Research Triangle Park, NC, equips



John Deere

them with an OHV 4-cycle gas engine, pressurized lubrication and an oil filter for durability. Electric start is standard on the 75; optional on the 45. Choose from a 10-gauge 36-in., or the 11-gauge steel 38- and 54-in. mower decks. Cutting height is adjusted without tools using spring-loaded quick-pull pins. Adjustable rear gauge wheels to eliminate scalping are standard on many decks.

Circle #271

LAWN-BOY

800/525-0059

The 21-in. commercial mower from Toro's Lawn-Boy division, Bloomington, MN, is available in the HP push model with a Dura-Force 6.5-hp commercial two-cycle engine with side discharge, or in the SP version with a 3-speed self-propelled version. At 4.25 quarts, unit has industry's biggest fuel tank.

Circle #272

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HUSQVARNA 800/HUSKY62

www.husqvarna.com

Built for the punishment of everyday commercial use, the 600 mower from Husqvarna,



Husqvarna

Charlotte, NC, is powered by a 6-hp Robin OHV engine. Self-propelled model has a variable drive allowing for speeds to 4 mph. The 21-in., rolled-under lip deck offers superior air-flow for bagging and added strength. Rear bagger handles up to 2.5 bushels of clippings. Cut heights range to 3.5 in. in four positions. **Circle #273**

LESCO 800/321-5325

Lesco Inc. Rocky River, OH, updated its fabricated rotary mowers, enhancing features for



Lesco

the commercial cutter. All mowers will be powered by Kawasaki engines ranging from the 15-hp single-cylinder OHV to the 21-hp twin cylinder

OHV. Units come with 36-, 48- and 52-in. hydro drives, each with dual hydro pumps and drive motors allowing for true zero-radius turns. Twin ground-speed control levers allow on-the-go adjustment to ensure straight-line tracking and excellent hillside control. All come with 5-gallon fuel tanks. **Circle #274**

MTD PRO 877/MTD-PRO1

www.mtdpro.com

The DH-1648 from MTD Pro, Cleveland, OH, is a 16-hp recoil-start mower with a 48-in. deck.



MTD Pro

Unit has three blades and a deck which adjusts from 2 in. to 4 in. Comes standard with dual hydro transmission, drum brakes and high-end tires on front and back. The 5-gal. fuel tank keeps this machine running all day. **Circle #275**

RICH MANUFACTURING 765/436-2744



Rich Manufacturing

Get two mowers in one: the Convertible line from Rich Manufacturing, Thorntown, IN, works as a hydro walk-behind and as a zero-turn rider. Three models offer a 17-hp

Kawasaki FH500 V-twin, a 20-hp Kohler CV20 V-twin or a 25-hp Kohler CV25 V-twin with oil cooler. The 10-gauge steel decks, with reinforcement plate on the front for durability come in 48-, 52- and 61-in. sizes. **Circle #276**

SCAG POWER EQUIPMENT 920/387-0100

www.scag.com

New from Scag, Mayville, WI, is the Ultimate hydro walk-behind, with a floating cutter deck



Scag Power Equipment

and heights adjustable in the field to 4.5 in. without tools. Self-adjusting, spring-loaded idler pulleys save time, effort and repair costs by keeping belts in perfect adjustment. Operator control levers increase productivity and comfort with less hand-grip reach and lighter spring tension. A 36-in. deck and 15-hp Kohler model or a 48-in. deck and 17-hp Kawasaki model are offered. **Circle #277**

SNAPPER 770/957-9141

www.snapper.com

Handle big jobs with the Pro Hydro SPLH140KWE from Snapper, McDonough,



Snapper

GA. Comes standard with a Kawasaki 14-hp OH engine, with other size engines are available to 22 hp. Full floating steel deck ranges

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all the way from 36- to 61-in. versions. Field-serviceable spindle assemblies make it possible for operators to rebuild the spindle assembly with standard tools while it is still mounted to the mower deck. Accutrak system provides on-the-go fingertip hydrostatic adjustment for tracking control with no tools required whatsoever.

Circle #278

SOLO

49-70-31-3010

www.solo-germany.com

The new Primo 553 SL made by Solo, Sindelfingen, Germany and distributed through local dealers is a self-propelled gas mower with electric start. Powered by a Honda-OHV 4-cycle engine, it generates 5.5 hp and cuts a 21-in. wide swath. Choose eight cutting heights for perfect match to any kind of conditions. Unit features metal wheels and a blade brake.

Circle #279

SWISHER

660-747-8650

www.swisherinc.com

Mow down those tight spaces with the 19-, 20- or 22-in. push mowers from Swisher, Warrensburg, MO. Lightweight, rust-proof aluminum cast frame makes handling easy. Each is available with a 3.75-hp Briggs and Stratton engine, with upgrades available. Steel ball-bearing wheels run longer.

Circle #280

TORO

800/476-9673

www.toro.com

The ProLine 32-, 36-, 37-, 44- and 52-in. Floating Deck midsize mowers from Toro, Bloomington, MN, come with five engines: 15-hp and 17-hp Kawasaki Twin OHV; 13-hp and 15-hp Kohler Command PRO; or a 12.5-hp Kawasaki. The 36-, 44- and 52-in. decks are equipped with the exclusive Super Flow System. The 32- and 37-in. Recycler mulching decks provide decreased vibration, reduced noise and increased



Toro

power to the blades for maximum productivity in even the toughest conditions. All have a forward ground speed of up to 6 mph.

Circle #281

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