

## Size Really Does Matter

Check the best new trenchers and mini-excavators

BY CURT HARLER/CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Did you hear the joke about the landscaper who was so desperate to downsize the openings cut by his trenching equipment that he took the system to a shrink?

Whoever said "size matters" would find general agreement among the irrigation-installation and trenching crowd. In this case, however, the emphasis would be on keeping things small.

Some machines are compact in size, allowing them access to backyards and tight spaces. Others produce a compact trench, doing less damage to the turf and making it easier to repair the scar left behind. Be sure to define what it is you're looking for when you talk to the dealer.

Lastly, consider the overall weight of the machine. Homeowners can get grumpy when the digger leaves behind cleat marks. In fact, they may complain more about that than they do the opening. Make an effort to minimize travel on the grass and make a clean getaway when you're done.

### BOBCAT

701/241-8742

[infocenter@bobcat.com](mailto:infocenter@bobcat.com)

Designed for backyard digging and irrigation system installation, the Bobcat 322 from Melroe Co., Fargo, ND, features an expandable

undercarriage that retracts to allow access to small excavation sites and expands to improve lifting and digging capabilities from the side of the machine.

When pulled in, it measures just 39 in. wide; on the job, it expands to 53 in. It offers a 12'5" maximum reach and a digging depth of 7'2". Also available is the 334 (photo) with 59" arm length, dump height of 10'9" and digging depth of 11'. All units can be fitted with a range of job-matched attachments.

Circle No. 271



Gehl Model GE502

Before you buy, do your homework:

- ▶ Look for a self-propelled model.
- ▶ Make sure the machine's size will fit in tight spots on the property.
- ▶ Work with a reliable dealer.

## DIG-IT

**800/723-9496**

The Towable Backhoe line from Dig-It, a division of Yazoo Power Equipment, Jackson, MS, lets a contractor get into and out of job sites fast and effectively. All can be towed with a half-ton pickup at highway speed, so no trailer is needed.

The Model 148 features retractable drive and caster wheels, trimming width to 35 in. for easy access to yards. Models 148 and 158 both have a digging depth of 8'6" and a digging force of 2,400 lbs. Commercial 18-hp V-twin engines or diesel engines are available.

**Circle No. 272**

## EZ-TRENCH

**843/756-6444**

The EZ8000 is a versatile trencher/bedder. The EZ8000 from EZ-Trench can be used for standard trenching, burying line while you trench and creating or defining curved landscape beds.

The landscaping blade uses a design that allows the EZ8000 to cut harder soils, pulverize the cuttings and bevel the bed edge to the plantings, while cutting a clean, well-defined border. The trencher is adjustable to depths of 1 in. to 8 in., with widths of 3/4 in. to 2 in. The EZ8000 is powered by either a 5.5hp Honda or a 6.0hp Briggs & Stratton Vanguard engine.

**Circle No. 273**

## GEHL

**414/334-9461**

[www.gehl.com](http://www.gehl.com)

Contractors looking for a versatile product will appreciate the wheeled Model GE502 from Gehl, West Bend, WI. It is powered by a Yanmar 4-cylinder water-cooled 134-cu. in. Yanmar and 19.7-in. bucket with a 4.6-cu. ft. capacity.

The wheeled Model 652 has a

31hp diesel and is just 64 in. wide and 95 in. high. It also has a 19.7-in. bucket and 4.6-cu. ft. capacity. The dozer blade is 63 in. wide and 17 in. high. The unit weighs 6,845 lbs. with canopy and 7,010 lbs. with a cab. Boom reaches 139 in. and digging depth is 122 in.

**Circle No. 274**

## HINOWA/MERTZ

**800/654-6433**

[www.mertzok.com](http://www.mertzok.com)

Hinowa/Mertz says its new line of mini-excavators can reach places other excavators can't because of its narrow track system. The DM8 model is small enough to fit through a normal door and light enough to haul in a pickup truck. Minimum ground pressure means less damage to yards. All units are powered by water-cooled Perkins diesel engines ranging from 9hp to 43hp, with digging depths from 5' 5" to 10', 6".

**Circle No. 275**

## JCB

**410/335-2800**

[www.jcbna.com](http://www.jcbna.com)

The JCB 210 line of 4x4x4's is a turf-friendly line of compact tool carriers, including a backhoe with plenty of power. Made by JCB,

Inc., White Marsh, MD, the line consists of the 210-S backhoe tool carrier, 210-SL loading shovel, and 210-SU utility tool carrier. The line features 4-wheel drive, 4-wheel steer, and four equal-size tires. The backhoe offers 9'9" to 12' digging depth and 4,850 lbs. of lift. The loader has a 0.8-cu. yd. capacity. The utility tractor also has a 0.8 yd. capacity and offers an optional 3-pt. hitch.

**Circle No. 276**

## JOHN DEERE

[www.deere.com](http://www.deere.com)

John Deere, Davenport, IA, offers two backhoe choices for compact utility tractors. The 47 Backhoe for the 4200, 4300 and 4400; and the 48 Backhoe for 4300, 4400, 4500, and 4600 feature an exclusive new mounting system that speeds up and simplifies the hooking of the backhoe to the tractor.

Both offer two-bar linkage on the bucket with 180° rotation for square-cornering trenches. The 47 has a 9-in. standard bucket with 12-, 16-, 20-, 24- and 36-in. options. The 48 comes with a 12-in. bucket and has 18-, 24- and 36-in. options. Height is 5'10" and digging depth is 7'6".

**Circle No. 277**

## LEON'S MFG. CO.

**800/667-1581**

[www.leonsmfg.com](http://www.leonsmfg.com)

The 944T Quadmaster Plus from Leon's Mfg. Co., Saskatchewan, Canada, is a 900-lb. mini-excavator with 1,820 lbs. of capacity and



**Leon Quadmaster Plus**

a lift height of 65 in. Powered by a 23hp gas engine, it comes with 4WD, singlehand steering and two hydraulic pumps. The unit claims the highest torque in the industry, making it a good machine for trenching slopes or uneven ground. It features a solenoid "combiner" valve which boosts speed and versatility. Unit handles 25 attachments including trencher, rotary hoe/tiller, backhoe and high-reach bucket.

**Circle No. 278**

## IHI

**270/737-1447**

The IHI 7-J, with 31-in. width, easily passes through a standard yard



**IHI 7-J has full 360° swing**

gate. Made by Ishikawajima Construction Machinery, represented by Compact Excavator Sales, Eliza-



**JCB offers a turf-friendly line of compact tool carriers.**

bethtown, KY, it has a full 360° swing and a 140° independent boom swing. It is powered by an 8hp water-cooled diesel engine. Rubber tracks and backfill blade are standard equipment. It digs to 5'2" and has two speeds.

Circle No. 279

#### **NAGANO INDUSTRY CO.**

**800/525-3322**

[www.tomenatlanta.com](http://www.tomenatlanta.com)

The NS35-2, distributed by Tomen America, Norcross, GA, for Nagano Industry Co., is a 3.5 ton class mini-excavator with plenty of power. It has 6,835 ft.-lbs. of bucket force and 4,080 lbs. of arm force, making it a powerful worker. Due to the independent travel system, it can move in a straight line even when the boom, arm and bucket are activated. It offers a 123-in. digging depth and a maximum vertical depth of 90 in. Its standard bucket is 23.2 in.

Circle No. 280

#### **NEW HOLLAND**

**630/260-4000**

[www.newholland.com/construction](http://www.newholland.com/construction)

The full line of four New Holland Construction mini-excavators features top-mounted boom cylinders, low noise levels and easy serviceability. The EC15 has a



**New Holland has four minis.**

3330-lb. operating weight and 18hp engine. The EC25 is 6,060 lbs. with 28 hp; EC35, 7,500 lbs. and 36 hp; and the EC45 has 10,320-lb. capacity and a 46hp engine. The units from the Carol Stream, IL firm dig at depths from

7'3" to 12'2". Attachments include hydraulic hammers, tampers and ditch cleaning buckets.

Circle No. 281

#### **TERRAMITE CORP.**

**800/428-3772**

[www.terramite.com](http://www.terramite.com)

Two mini-excavators, the TX-15 and TX-25, offer sophisticated three-pump hydraulics for maximum efficiency. Made by Terramite Corp., Charleston, WV, the TX-15 has a 1.35-cu. ft. bucket, 9-rpm slewing speed and a digging force of 2,430 lbs. to a depth of 6'8". The TX-25 has the same size bucket but a slewing speed of 89.5 rpm, 3,750 lbs. of digging force and a maximum depth of 7'11". Both are powered by 3-cylinder Isuzu diesels, the former at 16.5hp, the latter at 23hp.

Circle No. 282

#### **THOMAS EQUIPMENT**

**800/561-5623**

The T153S from Thomas Equipment, Centerville, NB, is designed for tight areas. New this past fall, the 1500-lb. class unit has a 73.5-in. operating height and 60-in. working width. The front end offers 4,150 lbs. of breakout force.

It is powered by a 52hp Kubota V2203E. A heavy-duty 100 drive chain provides power to the wheels for traction and pushing. For operator safety, the hydraulic controls remain locked until the operator is in the seat with seatbelt fastened and seat bar lowered.

Circle No. 283

# Turfco Sells Lawn Equipment Factory Direct

Turfco Manufacturing Inc., based in Minneapolis, has announced a new direct purchase program for its lawn care products line. The new program will be available to landscapers and lawn care firms involved in commercial turf maintenance.

The new "Turfco Direct" program began November 15, 1999, with important new features for buyers, such as:

- 90-day "same as cash" purchase option
- No payment for 120 days
- 14-day "satisfaction assured" approval period
- Extended two-year new equipment warranty period
- A new "Parts Direct" overnight delivery program
- Toll-free phone ordering at 800-679-8201
- Online ordering and purchase options at [www.turfco.com](http://www.turfco.com)



"Customers receive products faster for less," says President Kinkead.

#### **Direct delivery now saves you time and money.**

"This new program was developed after very deliberate and careful market analysis," said George Kinkead, Turfco President. "The fast pace of product development and improvements makes it imperative that new products be made available to end users as rapidly as possible. For example, Turfco has introduced 12 new products to the market just in the past seven years. Yet, the "main-line" dealer operations focus most of their efforts on their primary product lines, so renovation and specialty products tend to get lost in the shuffle."

Kinkead says offering both products and replacement parts directly to customers will shorten their turn-around time for getting new equipment into operation, as well as getting machines back to work quicker. "Our product designs now make it possible for equipment owners and operators to make most repairs and adjustments right in the field, using regular hand tools."

Kinkead continued "Our turn-around time will be shorter and our factory will be more responsive. The company's golf course products will continue to be marketed through our existing distribution channels."

The new "Turfco Direct" phone number is (800) 679-8201. Fax requests and orders can be sent to (612) 785-0556, mailed to Turfco Manufacturing, Inc., 1655 101st Ave. N.E., Minneapolis, MN 55449-4420 or e-mailed to [sales@turfco.com](mailto:sales@turfco.com). For fast, immediate savings, visit the company's website at [www.turfco.com](http://www.turfco.com).



The new "Turfco Direct" program will include Turfco's lawn aerators, sod cutters, edgers and lawn overseeder.

ADVERTISEMENT

Circle 122