

The tractor factor

BY CURT HARLER / CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

When Cherokee Plantation head greenskeeper Chris Johnson goes shopping for a tractor, his first priority is matching the unit to the kinds of jobs it will do.

"Will you use it for the PTO, as a forklift, because you need a front bucket?" he asks. "Do you need 4-wheel drive? What kind of tires?" One constant, however, is a diesel engine.

Cherokee Plantation, Yemassee, SC, is a new Donald Steele-designed golf course started in August 1998. Growth occurred the following June, and play began in September 1999.

"I look at the jobs that require a tractor and then try to find as universal a tractor as I can," Johnson says. Currently, they have one large 45-hp tractor and two smaller units in the 30- to 33-hp range that are used daily to pull mowers and perform other typical jobs. He draws a distinction between jobs for tractors and those for carts, tractors being able to do heavy-duty work like hauling dirt or moving sod.

He is particular about tires. Since one tractor was purchased when the course was

under construction, it has off-road tires. But those will be replaced with turf tires to minimize the impact of sharp turns.

Cherokee Plantation uses New Holland equipment. Johnson likes 4-wheel drive and New Holland's Super-Steer feature which allows a zero-radius turn...just as long as the operator is careful not to tear the turf.

AMATEX, INC.

888/988-4453

The Hurlimann 435 Prince with loader is powered by a 35-hp 4-cylinder engine. It comes with 12 forward/12 reverse shuttle-shift transmission and standard 4WD. Marketed in



North America by Amatex, Milwaukee, WI, it is part of a full line of tractors in the 25- to 190-hp range. Also available in the Prince series are the 35-hp 435 and the 45-hp 445. All have 540/1000 rpm PTOs.



7360SS Cub Cadet

What to look for when buying

- ▶ Match tractor size/configuration to the jobs you need it to do
- ▶ Consider four-wheel drive, zero-turn, PTO requirements
- ▶ Tractors are used best to handle heavy-duty work
- ▶ Make sure tires are suited to the types of landscape work you'll do

Im reports

The Eicher 364 from Belarus ▶

BELARUS 414/355-2000

The Eicher 364 is a 39-hp utility tractor with dual-stage clutch to provide live PTO, power steering, a fuel-efficient engine, differential lock and ROPS. Manufactured in India and marketed from Milwaukee, WI, by Belarus Machinery, it has an air-cooled diesel engine, 3-pt. hitch with draft/position control and a lift capacity of 2,213 lbs. Unit has disk brakes.



JOHN DEERE 800/537-8233

www.deere.com

The John Deere 790 compact utility tractor is designed for people on tight budgets. It can handle a variety of projects like

mowing, loader/backhoe, post hole digging or snow removal. It has 30 gross engine hp and 25-hp PTO. It comes in either a 2WD or 4WD version, with power steering and dual-stage dry clutch standard on the 4WD.

Both have a selectable system for rear and mid PTOs, which can be used alone or simultaneously. Sliding gear transmission has eight forward and two reverse speeds.



include three transmission choices. The 4610 is the newest of the series. Pick a fully synchronized main and shuttle transmission for economy and reliability; glide shift transmission gives clutchless shift on-the-go operation; and the Feather-Step hydrostatic transmission reduces amount of foot pressure needed to depress pedals and cuts shock when making sudden stops or direction changes. All units are powered by the Kubota E-TVSC diesel.

MTD PRODUCTS 330/225-2600

www.cubcadet.com

The 7360SS Cub Cadet compact tractor from MTD, Cleveland, OH, is the top of the 7000 line. It features a 36-hp, 4-cylinder, liquid cooled diesel engine; fully-synchronized shuttle shift with two speed ranges, differential lock and 4WD; hydraulically actuated PTO clutch; and hydrostatic power steering. Adjustable high-back seat, back-lit dash panel, and 3-position tilt steering wheel assure operator comfort. Optional back hoe, loader and rear mower are available.

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KUBOTA TRACTOR 888/458-2682

www.kubota.com

The Grand-L Ten line from Kubota Tractor, Torrance, CA, has been upgraded to



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1-800-441-3573**

Im reports

Snapper Turf Cruisers ▶



NEW HOLLAND

717/355-1121

www.newholland.com

Three new models — the 18.5-hp TC18, 21-hp TC21 and the deluxe 21-hp TC21D — mean there now are nine models in the Boomer line from New Holland, New Holland, PA. Units range from 18.5 to 33 hp. The TC18 has a two-range gearbox, while the TC21 has three range — better for operators who tend to run long hours in a single



gear. For infinitely variable speed without clutch or shift lever, a hydrostatic transmission is available. Units have a 540-rpm rear PTO and a live 2000-rpm mid-PTO on models with hydrostatic transmission.

SNAPPER

888/SNAPPER

www.snapper.com

The Turf Cruiser from Snapper, McDonough, GA, gives landscapers the choice between gas or diesel engines — a 23-hp OHV liquid-cooled 3-cylinder Kubota or a 21-hp liquid cooled diesel Kubota. Both have electric ignition. Single-lever joystick controls two Eaton hydrostatic transmissions with integrated gear reduction. Chevron-style drive tires provide maximum traction and stability. Attachments are simple with Qwik-O-Nect system.

TORO CO.

800/525-0059

www.toro.com

The Z Master Z350 series from Toro, Bloomington, MN, is based on a tractor powered by either a 20-hp or 25-hp Kohler Command Pro air-cooled engine with electronic key ignition. From there, its Quick-Mount hitch system converts it into a mower with decks from 44 inches to 98 inches; a dozer with 54-in. blade; a two-stage 36-in. snowthrower; a debris blower; or a 47-in. rotary broom. A simple connection allows implements to slide onto the hitch and easily lock in place.

YAZOO/KEES

800/723-9496

www.yazookees.com

The Power King 1600 Series from Yazoo/Kees, Jackson, MS, are shaft-driven, heavy-duty garden tractors. Both are powered by a 22-hp Kohler Command V-twin engine with hydrostatic transmission. The UT622HV includes foot-control tranny, front hydraulic ports and a front PTO to drive snow blower, broom or mower deck. Both have 1-year commercial warranty.

LONG AGRIBUSINESS

252/823-4151

www.longagri.com

The LandTrac 280 and 360 from Long Agribusiness, Tarboro, NC, are both powered by Mitsubishi Indirect Injection diesel engines and have electro-hydraulic PTO clutch operated by a switch on the dash. The 280 is a 28-hp, 91.5-cubic inch unit with 27-hp PTO; the 360 has 36 hp, 107.3 cubes, and develops 33 PTO hp. Both transmissions have 12 forward and six reverses, and a fully synchronized four-speed main gear shift