

Im reports

TECH CENTER

Handy tools for handling plants

BY CURT HARLER / CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Efficiency is the reason many new products that handle plants are designed the way they are. Two elements in particular — tires and tire size — can make a difference in plant handling.

Al Keefer, vice president of R.B. Stout Inc. in Akron, OH, says his company always makes sure to buy plant carts with balloon tires. Most turf-type tires avoid a tremendous amount of damage.

“Everything we have has larger tires on them, because they make it so much easier to go from gravel to asphalt. The tires work well on all surfaces,” Keefer notes. “We don’t use narrower tires that catch in the dirt.”

That goes for the typical two- and four-wheeled nursery carts.

One item regularly moved around the yard and the landscape is compost, which is a good source of organic matter for heavier soils and adds fertility as well. Leaves, weeds, waste hay and any other vegetable matter found around lawns can be composted.

Whether you make your own compost or buy it from a supplier, finding the most efficient method of transporting it to the job site, then applying it to beds and other plant areas without disturbing the turf can be challenging. Check out the products below to start reducing plant material or moving it around.

ARIENS

800/678-5443

www.ariens.com

Make a quality chip with the ProChip 12115 from Ariens, Brillion, WI. Unit has 15x17-in. throat capacity. The 90-degree SaverCut feature eliminates dead space behind the feed wheel, reduces jams and uses less fuel than machines with a 45-degree angle cut. A switch-on in-feed and discharge chute hinge prevents machine from operating when hinge is open. Unit cannot operate when bed knives or cutter knives are exposed.

Circle #258

ATI CORPORATION

800/342-0905

The GK-4866 grapple kit is designed for use on compact tractor loaders. Made by ATI, New Holland, PA, it lets operators handle brush, bales, leaves, bark mulch and other bulky items. The GK-4866 can be added to any standard 48- to 66-in. compact tractor bucket and removed easily. Eight bolts secure it to the bucket. Clamping power comes from a 1.75x6-in. hydraulic cylinder, mounted in-line with the grapple hook. It weighs only 137 lbs.

Circle #259



▲ Little Wonder power trimmers

Plant handling tips

- ▶ **Look for versatile components that allow you to handle a variety of mulch, plants or other landscape materials**
- ▶ **Search for sturdy products that eliminate hand work**
- ▶ **Hydraulic drive saves manpower and time when switching components**



◀ Holey Moley HydroPlanter

FOSTER MANUFACTURING

262/633-7073

www.fostermfgcorp.com

The HaulZall line of powered carts carry all kinds of plants and planting material. Made by Foster, Racine, WI, they come in flatbed and dump configurations and are propelled by dependable hydraulic drive. HaulZall carts can carry 800-lb. loads up a 20-degree slope.

Circle #262

GEMPLER'S

800/382-8473

www.gemplers.com

Know where you've been planting — and keep others out of the way with high-visibility outdoor-grade vinyl stake flags from Gempler's, Belleville, WI. Company offers flags in a dozen colors, including clear or fluorescent pink, green and orange. All are made of 4-mil. vinyl and are on 15.5-gauge steel wire. They are available in a variety of lengths, packed in bundles of 100.

Circle #263

HOLEY MOLEY

877/327-7782

www.holeymoleyhydrotools.com

Plant bulbs, ornamentals and even fence posts fast with the Holey Moley Hydro Tool line from Snake River Tool Co., Lewiston, ID. The tools come in three versions: HydroPlanter (pictured), HydroDigger and HydroBore, all of which use as little as 15 psi water pressure. The planter digs the hole, moistens ground and lets water seep to plant roots. The digger can dig a four-ft. hole in 40 seconds. The HydroBore digs holes horizontally under existing drives or walks, perfect for installing irrigation or electric lines.

Circle #264

ATI Corp.'s GK-4866 grapple kit ▶

LEBANON TURF PRODUCTS

800/233-0628

www.lebturf.com

To perk up iron-deficient plants, look into Perk from Lebanon Turf, Lebanon, PA. It is a 4-0-10 fertilizer with 10% iron humate for chlorotic plants. It also contains at least 2% manganese and 8% sulfur. If weeds are the problem, use Professional Preen, a pre-emergent product for handling weeds in ornamentals, shrub beds, tree saucers and other mulched areas. Preen is a trifluralin and isoxaben granular product on a high-density dust-free carrier. It comes in 20-lb. packages and can be applied with most shakers and impeller-driven broadcast spreaders.

Circle #265

LITTLE WONDER

877/596-6337

www.littlewonder.com

Keep hedged areas around plantings shipshape with the single-edged, gas powered trimmers from Little Wonder, Southampton, PA. Units have either 30- or 42-in. blades featuring double-reciprocating action. They're powered by a 21.2cc engine with electronic ignition and primer bulb carburetor.

Circle #266

RANSOMES

CUSHMAN RYAN

800/228-4444

Move plants, bedding and up to 2,200 lbs. of other cargo conveniently with the flatbed/box from Cushman Turf Care, Lincoln, NB. The dump box has an automatic tailgate release and latch. When the hydraulically-operated dump box is raised, the tailgate releases. Lower it, and tailgate closes and latches shut, all from the driver's seat.

Circle #267

VERMEER

641/628-3141

www.vermeermfg.com

Designed for large volume wood and yard waste disposal, waste reduction and recycling tasks, the TG800 tub grinder from Vermeer, Pella, IA, chews up organic material. Electronic fuel-injected, twin turbo-charged and after-cooled Caterpillar 3412E delivers 800 hp into a gear-reduction, transmission-driven hammer mill. The high-efficiency, microprocessor-controlled transmission lets the grinder deliver maximum torque with minimum hammer mill wear.

Circle #268



BRISCO, INC.

800-IF-YOU-DIG

briscoinc@aol.com

Eliminate the hand work of digging with the DynaDigger by Brisco, Swannanoa, NC. Company claims it can dig a seven-ft. tree or shrub out of the ground in about two minutes. It weighs 43 lbs. and is 32 in. long before adding 18-, 24- or 30-in. blade. Unit is powered by a two-stroke engine driving a piston rod to which the detachable blade is attached. Driving rod moves up and down just 3/8 in., allowing blade to slice into the ground cleanly and quickly.

Circle #260

EXTRACTOR

509/725-8443

www.extractor@farmrc.org

The Extractor from Extractor CDM, Davenport, WA, mounts on a tractor or backhoe with three- or four-pt. hitch to dig out trees. Several horizontally spaced tines pass through and under the root structure to minimize damage to roots. The machine then lifts the plant so a larger proportion of the peripheral roots remain intact.

Circle #261