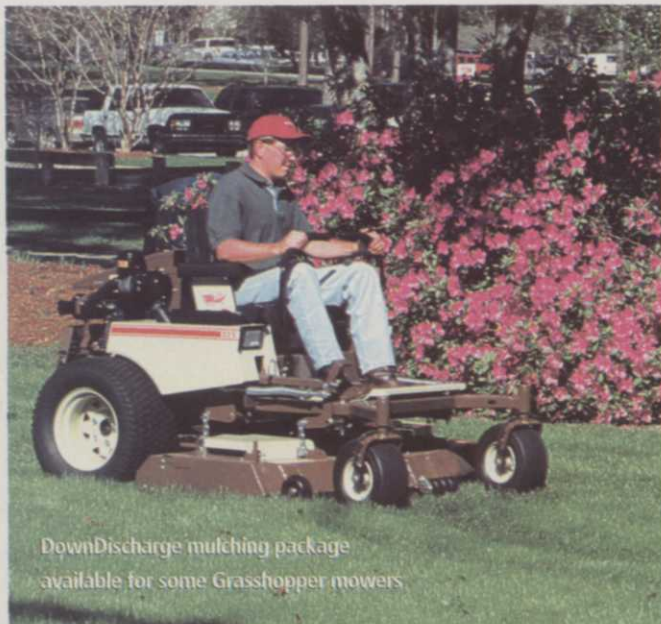


# Mulch it up



DownDischarge mulching package available for some Grasshopper mowers

BY CURT HARLER

Landschoot, associate professor of turfgrass science at Penn State University.

Mulching mowers are rotary mowers designed to keep the clippings circulating under the mower deck so the blades of grass will be chopped into finer pieces.

Some newer mowers have special features that facilitate mulching, including multiple rippled blades and dome-shaped decks.

Most commercial mower manufacturers offer mulching kits for their mowers. These are plates that block discharge shoots and force the clippings back through the blades to assure they become a fine mulch.

**BEFCO**  
**800/334-6617**  
 ROCKY MOUNT, NC  
[www.befco.com](http://www.befco.com)

- Baffling on Cyclone mowers for even thatch disbursement
  - Rear discharge
  - Fast clearing of thatch
- Circle #258**

**BOBCAT**  
**888/922-TURF**  
[www.textronturf.com](http://www.textronturf.com)

- Come with 32-, 36-, 48-, 54- and 61-in. decks
  - Mowers are gear driven
  - Five forward speeds
- Circle #259**

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**M**ulching mowers are part of the answer to the landfill space crunch facing America. An analysis of resi-

dential waste composition in Cincinnati, OH, shows that yard debris accounted for nearly 20% of the total. A study in Plano, TX (population 80,000) reveals over 700 tons of grass clippings were collected and disposed of in landfills each week.

In addition to demand for landfill space, collection and disposal of this waste material is expensive, notes Dr. Peter J.

## Get an edge

It's one thing to sharpen a mower blade properly. It's another thing to keep a sharp edge on that blade.

The best answer today appears to be Marbain mower blades. Several manufacturers now tout products which offer Marbain. Among them are Cub Cadet Commercial, Gravelly, Great Dane, Raptor and Scag.

Competitors agree there's a marked advantage to this newest technology. Blades made with Marbain-treated steel, a proprietary heat treatment process, are extremely hard, yet not brittle.

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**Cub Cadet one of several mowers with new blades**

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**BUSH HOG**

**800/537-3716**

SELMA, AL

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

- Easy to install on mid-mount zero-turn mowers from mulching kit allows discharge chute to be left in place
- Circle #260

**CUB CADET COMMERCIAL**

**877/835-7841**

CLEVELAND, OH

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

- Mulching system is computer designed
  - Features Marbain blades
  - Available on zero-turn riders
- Circle #261

**JOHN DEERE**

**800/537-8233**

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC

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



- Deep deck mower design increases airflow
  - Material processes fast
  - All take mulch kit attachments
- Circle #262

**DIXON INDUSTRIES**

**800/264-6075**

COFFEYVILLE, KS

[www.dixon-ztr.com](http://www.dixon-ztr.com)

- Add a mulch kit to the ZTR



7523 mid-mount rider

- Kit has three Gator Blade mulching blades and bolt-in plug
  - Zero-turning radius
- Circle #263

**EASTMAN INDUSTRIES**

**207/878-5353**

PORTLAND, ME

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

- Hover mowers come in 19- and 16-in. widths
  - Three-blade design chops clippings to 1/4-in. length
- Circle #264

**GRASSHOPPER**

**620/345-8621**

MOUNDRIDGE, KS

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

- DownDischarge mulching package for all front-mount and M1 midmount decks 44 - 72 in.
  - FlipUp option on front-mount
- Circle #265

**GRAVELY**

**800/472-8359**

BRILLION, WI

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

- Mulch kits available for all Pro G and Pro H walk-behinds, 250Z, 260Z and 272Z zero-turns and PM310 and PM460 outfront mowers
- Circle #266

**HUSTLER**

**800/395-4757**

MOUNDRIDGE, KS

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

- Mulch kits available for all

*continued from page 68*

In fact, their 50 Rockwell Hardness rating is 25% to 50% harder than blades found on standard mowers.

The process improves blades' metallurgical properties. The yield strength (or amount of force needed to deform the blade edge) is increased, and this gives the blade greater impact toughness and improved wear resistance. As a result, the blades hold their edges longer.

These new blades are tough but not bulky. With the Marbain process, one produces a lighter blade material. The metal's actual weight or density isn't changed. But it's possible to make a blade thinner and therefore lighter given its better properties, according to Cub Cadet product line manager Ken Speece. That means less work for the mower engine.

Marbain blades are no more difficult to sharpen if standard power grinding wheel techniques are used, but would be tougher to do with a hand file.

The material is effective both for mulching blades and regular mower blades.

Hydro walk-behinds

- Fit decks of 37, 48, and 54 in.
  - Retain material under deck to be cut and recut
- Circle #267

**LASTEC**

**317/892-4444**

LIZTON, IN

- Articulator 725XR has mulch or rear discharge option
  - Requires 35 pto tractor, 3-point hitch
  - Seven articulating decks
- Circle #268

**PROGRESSIVE TURF EQUIPMENT**

**800/668-8873**

SEAFORTH, ONTARIO, CANADA

- Mulching kits for TD65-2 and TD-65 give fine cut on 12- or 15-ft. units
  - Three blades on the center and two per wing deck
- Circle #269

**SCAG POWER EQUIPMENT ▶**

**920/387-0100**

MAYVILLE, WI

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

- Install a Mulch Master system

on Advantage cutter decks

- Eliminator Blades with individual cutting chambers shred grass to ultra-fine particles
- Circle #270

**TERRACARE PRODUCTS**

**608/429-3402**

PARDEEVILLE, WI

- Patented Tri-Cut cutting disk gives one-third more cuts per revolution
  - Mows 1 to 3.5 in.
- Circle #271

**TORO COMPANY**

**800/803-8676**

BLOOMINGTON, MN

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

- Cuts, recuts clippings, driving small pieces back into turf
  - 72-in. deck works on Groundsmaster series mowers
- Circle #272

