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Circle No. 131 on Reader Inquiry Card

LM REPORTS

Compact tractors

The big advantage is the versatility they offer.

■ A green industry professional looking for a sturdy and versatile machine will find what he's looking for with a compact tractor suitable for multiple attachments.

The convenience of the 3-point hitch makes a 15-30 horsepower unit able to pull rakes, till, seeder, chippers, reel mowers or backhoes all with the same tractor.

Front-end attachments include brushes, snow plows, front loaders and mower decks. We've collected some of the leading compact tractors available, based on response to an *LM* call for information.

Cushman's Front Line mowers are designed to handle multiple chores.



From Ford New Holland: basic, no-frills power units.



John Deere's 755, 855 and 955 hydrostatic compact tractors are diesel powered.



Honda H6522: nine forward speeds, three reverse speeds.



Steiner's 420 has an optional Quick Hitch attachment.



Gravelly features all-gear direct drive transmissions.



The Kubota B50 Series is designed to make tighter turns with minimal turf damage.

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COMPACT TRACTORS FOR 1994

Company	Product	Features
Classen Circle No. 311	VB-40 vibratory plow	Attaches easily to most 3-pt. tractors of 18-hp or larger. This unit is designed to bury poly or pvc irrigation pipe up to 1-1/2 inches in diameter, electrical wire or cable 12-inches below ground.
John Deere Circle No. 312	755, 855 and 955	These three hydrostatic compact tractors are all diesel powered. The hydrostatic transmission means the driver has infinite speed selections and easier operation. Dual pedal, speed-and-direction control leaves hands free for steering and operating other controls. Large-capacity oil cooler extends transmission life. Two speed transaxle allows high- and low-range operating speeds.
Ford New Holland Circle No. 313	15-series tractors	Includes 13.5, 23 and 38 PTO hp units. These are basic, no-frills power units, all of which are diesel powered. The company says the 13.5 PTO hp model 1215 is the right size for mowing and landscape management tasks. The 23 hp is powered to accommodate larger rotary cutters. Front end loaders are available for each.
Gravely Circle No. 314	"G" Riding Tractors	All have all-gear direct drive transmissions; no belts to break or replace; rear-mounted engines; speeds from .5 to 8.4 mph. Various attachments are available for landscaping, mowing and snow removal.
Honda Circle No. 315	H6522	Powered by a 22-hp, 3-cylinder, liquid-cooled diesel engine; available in two- and four-wheel drive models; independent mid and rear PTOs; a complete line of Category 1 attachments; nine forward speeds, three reverse speeds.
Kubota Circle No. 316	FZ2400 B50 Series	The FZ2400 is a 24-hp front mower now marketed with Kubota's 20-hp FZ2100 model. It has Zero Diameter Turn and Auto Assist Differential 4-wheel drive. The FZ2400 is ideally suited for all types of commercial and golf course grounds management. The B50 Series—the B1550, B1750 and B2150—is designed with a "bi-speed turn" feature, for a tighter turn radius and minimal turf damage.
Lely Kioti, Inc. Circle No. 317	LB 1914	Has a 3-cylinder, 4-cycle, water-cooled diesel engine, and 19 hp. Shuttle transmission is a convenience feature. The 3-pt. hitch accommodates Category 1 implements and a hydraulic diverting block provides power to the front-mounted implements as well. Has disc brakes and an easy-to-replace oil filter. Power steering assist, turf tires, horizontal muffler and front weights are all optional.
Ransomes America Circle No. 318	Cushman Front Line Mowers	Designed to efficiently handle multiple turf maintenance chores. The tractor is available in three- or four-wheel models with three different engine types: a 27-hp liquid-cooled gasoline engine, 22-hp air-cooled gasoline engine, or a 22-hp diesel engine. Available in either 60- or 72-inch widths. Attachments include a Cushman Core Destroyer, tine rake dethatcher, Promark blower, front-end brush and cloth or hard-frame cabs.
Snapper Circle No. 319	GT180H425K and 485K LT150H422KV;482BV	Kohler engines power the GT series; Briggs & Stratton engines run the LT series; hydrostatic transmissions; infinite speed; 42- or 48-inch decks; headlights; anti-scalp rollers. GT series has cruise control.
Steiner Circle No. 320	Model 420 tractor	Features three engine options, power steering, articulated frame, constant four-wheel drive and low center of gravity. Fully hydrostatic, a single lever control allows a choice of infinite ground speeds and 2-speed transaxles give a choice of high or low range.

Chart/photo source: LM phone survey
conducted in March, 1994.

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Alternative ornamental plants for northern part of the United States



Hamamelis x intermedia 'Arnold Promise'

Director of grounds for The Scott Arboretum suggests these species.

■ Jeff Jabco, director of grounds for The Scott Arboretum at Swarthmore (Pa.) College, suggests the plants on this and the next page as being "beyond the ordinary" alternative plants.

Earlier this year, Jabco told Eastern Pennsylvania Turf Conference attendees to weigh these factors:

"Pick things with more than one season of interest. Pick something easily available in your area. And make sure to pick insect- and disease-resistant plants, where you can. It'll make your job a lot easier."

—Jerry Roche



Prunus x incam 'Okame'

JEFF JABCO'S ALTERNATIVE PLANTS TREES

SPECIES	NOTES
bottlebrush buckeye (<i>Aesculus parviflora</i>)	8-12 feet tall and about the same width; very tolerant; good in dense shade or sun; bottle-shaped white flowers; low maintenance; good yellow fall color
river birch (<i>Betula nigra</i> 'Heritage')	very resistant to bronze birch borer; attractive tan bark
katsuratree (<i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i>)	good street tree, or for parks/parking islands; very drought-tolerant when established; low maintenance; no insect or disease problems; no leaf litter because of small leaves; maroon in spring, golden yellow in fall; nice-smelling leaves; about 40-60 feet tall
Alaska cedar (<i>Chamaecyparis nootkatensis</i> 'Pendula')	evergreen; can handle moist, humid conditions; usually no insect or disease problems; 30-45 feet tall with a drooping look
white fringetree (<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>)	12-20 feet tall; member of olive family; frilly white flowers in late spring, turning to drooping
corneliancherry dogwood (<i>Cornus mas</i>)	early flowers of yellow/golden color; limbs low; globe-shaped; small red fruit that are edible; fairly attractive bark; few insect or disease problems
hybrid witchhazel (<i>Hamamelis x intermedia</i>)	flowers early winter through spring; cold tolerant; very fragrant; 'Arnold Promise' is bold yellow while 'Jelena' is coppery colored; 10-20 feet tall
Foster's holly (<i>Ilex x attenuata</i> 'Foster's #2')	tends to stay relatively narrow; has fine texture, leaves narrower; attractive deep red fruit; no leaf miner problems
goldenraintree (<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>)	street tree in urban areas; very salt and compaction tolerant; yellow flowers drop off in mid-summer; easy to establish; drought tolerant; golden yellow in fall
Yulan magnolia (<i>Magnolia denudata</i> — <i>M. heptapeta</i>)	yellowish-white flowers are most effective against a dark background; flowers early
star magnolia (<i>Magnolia stellata</i> 'Centennial')	narrow growth habit; packed with white flowers with a tinge of pink; very few problems
crabapple (<i>Malus</i> 'Jewelberry')	apple scab-resistant; smaller of crabapples; 8-12 feet tall and same width; small fruit
flowering cherry (<i>Prunus x incam</i> 'Okame')	smaller of flowering cherries; deep pink flowers; attractive bark; good fall color
yoshino cherry (<i>Prunus x yedoensis</i>)	25-40 feet tall; wider than tall; pink to white flowers
oriental spruce (<i>Picea orientalis</i>)	dark green needles; somewhat tolerant of shade; ½-inch needles
sawtooth oak (<i>Quercus acutissima</i>)	35-45 feet tall; shiny dark green leaves; pyramidal shape

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KUBOTA RUNS CIRCLES AROUND THE COMPETITION

Kubota's FZ2100 and FZ2400 with Zero Diameter Turn (ZDT) run circles around the competition.

The power in the innovative FZ front mowers starts with 20 or 24 horsepower Kubota liquid cooled diesel engines and continues with the Auto Assist Differential (AAD) drive system that automatically switches between 2WD and 4WD to match operating conditions. With AAD, you get extra power to maneuver easily in wet grass and muddy conditions with the front wheels rotating freely through the tightest turns. The FZ can turn completely around in one spot without damage to the turf, cutting way down the time spent on labor-intensive hand trimming jobs.

For productivity and versatility, Kubota's F-Series front mowers can't be beat. The F2400 is 4WD and 24 horsepower, while the F2100 is available in 2WD or 4WD, and has 20 horsepower. Both have Kubota diesel engines, and are equipped with hydrostatic rear-wheel power steering for easy handling. A wide selection of Performance Matched Implements provide the versatility. They include triplex reel, rotary, flail and mulching rear discharge mowers, rotary broom, leaf blower, snowblower, and front blade. Roomy operator's deck, tilt steering wheel, and excellent visibility increase comfort and productivity.

Your Kubota dealer can show you the complete Kubota turf equipment line with the power and maneuverability to run circles around the competition.



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For information write to:
Kubota Tractor Corporation,

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Financing available through Kubota Credit Corporation.

SHRUBS

SPECIES	NOTES
butterfly bush (<i>Buddleia davidii</i>)	can be cut back to 8-12 inches; can grow 6-8 feet tall; blue, pink or yellow flowers
purple beautyberry (<i>Callicarpa dichotoma</i>)	berries more prominent in fall—a real show; 3-4 feet tall
summersweet (<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>)	native to wet areas and shade; sun doesn't affect it; good fragrance; 'Hummingbird' stays under 3 feet tall; 'Rosea' flowers are pink
redvein enkianthus (<i>Enkianthus campanulatus</i>)	white flowers edged in red; narrow and upright shrub; 10-12 feet tall if allowed; brilliant fall color; reddish leaves
dwarf fothergilla (<i>Fothergilla gardenii</i>)	white bottle flowers, 4-5 feet tall; brilliant fall color; reddish leaves
oakleaf hydrangea (<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>)	good in full sun or full shade; creamy white flowers in summer and large leaves; foliage is brilliant red in fall; attractive brown bark in winter
inkberry holly (<i>Ilex glabra</i>)	non-descript evergreen shrub; upright-looking; tolerates both wet and dry areas
winterberry holly (<i>Ilex x 'Harvest Red'</i>)	6-10 feet tall with bright red fruit in fall and winter; other cultivars 3-12 feet and berry color of red, orange and gold.
Virginia sweetspire (<i>Itea virginica 'Henry's Garnet'</i>)	clump-forming shrub; white drooping flowers; deep red leaves in fall through January
Korean rhododendron (<i>Rhododendron mucronulatum</i>)	purplish flowers, 4-8 feet tall; great in very early spring
shrub rose (<i>Rose x 'Bonica'</i>)	no need to spray or deadhead; very nice rose hips stay on into winter; prune every 2-3 years to one foot high
doublefile viburnum (<i>Viburnum plicatum var. tomentosum</i>)	12-15 feet tall, two rows of white flowers; almost no insect or disease problems; good screening plant
chastetree (<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>)	summer purple flowering shrub tall if not cut back; accent plant for perennial gardens; no insect or disease problems

Photo and information source: Jeff Jabco, The Scott Arboretum

EXCESS EQUIPMENT: asset or liability?

How many times have you actually used that extra equipment? Best to sell it or trade it in.

by Ed Wandtke

■ After recently visiting four or five golf courses and maintenance companies, I found enough spare equipment to operate a \$1 million maintenance company or an 18-hole golf course. The green industry is great at keeping equipment manufacturers in business.

There is nothing wrong with buying new equipment if it's needed, but hanging on to old equipment to be used as spares is becoming ever more expensive and risky. Golf course superintendents and landscape/lawn care company owners usually do not realize how much money is tied up in spare equipment.

And frequently, this spare equipment is neglected, stored outside, rather than indoors or under some kind of protective covering.

Good intentions—There are various causes and rationalizations for keeping old

continued on page 20

Is it wrong to sell or throw away equipment you may some day need?





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EQUIPMENT from page 18

equipment:

1) Your current supplier is not the same one who sold you the equipment years ago.

2) The supplier is offering you almost nothing on your trade-in equipment toward a new item. (Recovering the large amount of money you have in spare equipment is difficult, yet it is possible with some negotiating.)

3) To have it on hand for emergencies, in case a main workhorse breaks down. However, maintenance records of equipment failures over the last 10 years show that equipment is often out of service fewer than 30 days a year.

4) Many owners believe that keeping rainy-day equipment helps handle unexpected weather conditions. But rainy-day equipment needs often fail to materialize. If they do, employees often become more resourceful because no one likes to use the "old" equipment.

5) Some owners find spare equipment provides a buffer to handle unexpected opportunities for new business during a season. But, in reality, opportunities for new business occur an average of just once every three years.

6) An answer I continually hear—and it's not a good one—is that it simply is wrong to throw or sell equipment that you may need some day.

Equipment on the market today is more efficient, safer and superior in performance to models available just two or three years ago. With these many advantages in new equipment, why are owners keeping so much spare equipment around?

Indeed, there may not be a good reason to initially purchase new equipment:

- Much equipment is under-used. Operators get tired, or there is not enough daily work for the equipment.

- Because of technological improvements, many supervisors want to be among the first to own an innovative piece of equipment, even though mowing an acre in 25 minutes—as opposed to 30 minutes—results in little time or money savings.

- Great deals are being offered by some manufacturers, to get people who don't really need the new equipment to buy it.

Other factors—Insurance and technological factors are two reasons why you shouldn't be keeping so much old equipment on hand.

Worker's compensation premiums for equipment operators are increasing at rates of 10 to 50 percent. So safety in the workplace is becoming a more important

Spare equipment is not always stored properly, nor is it usually maintained, so it soon becomes useless.



issue in the green industry. Many old pieces of equipment don't have all the safety features of new equipment.

States are more active in identifying jobs that are higher risk, based on a review of claims made or pending. An employer could be held liable for allowing an employee to operate an unsafe piece of equipment (one on which no regular preventive maintenance is being performed).

The high level of employee turnover in this industry causes us to deal with new employees yearly—or even weekly. Accidents are more likely to occur with old equipment, or the resulting quality may not be as high.

Swap meet—One solution to the problem of too much old equipment was devised by members of the Ohio Lawn Care Association. They hold an equipment swap meet in the summer. This allows both members and others to purchase at a significant savings equipment that is not in active use. What a great solution: turning scrap into cash before you need to throw it away!

Finally, some of you might opt to sell off old equipment as early as possible, rather than having to pay a scrap dealer to haul it away in a year or two.

—The author is a principle in Wandtke & Associates, consultants to the green industry. For more information, phone (614) 891-3111.

Drug abuse: watch for symptoms

Employer-sponsored programs to help the afflicted can pay for themselves in no time at all.

■ The National Institute of Drug Abuse estimates that the current rate of drug abuse among employed persons is 8.2 percent. In the 18-25 age group, that figure rises to 24 percent. The Institute also estimates that 70 percent of current drug users are employed.

In a 1986 survey by the National Drug Abuse Help Line, 75 percent of drug users admitted using drugs while at work.

Signs of drug abuse include:

- lack of coordination,
- reduced motivation,
- lack of attention to detail,
- increased mistakes or accidents,
- wide mood swings,
- withdrawal from fellow employees,
- deteriorating personal appearance and health,
- a disregard for the safety of others, and
- an increase in domestic and financial problems.

Since drug testing programs typically cost between \$500 and \$750 to set up, they can pay for themselves in no time at all. The fee to a private consultant should include:

- 1) drafting a substance abuse policy to fit the needs of your individual company or organization,
- 2) conducting drug education sessions,
- 3) setting up local collection clinics, and
- 4) arranging for laboratory testing and reporting.

A drug test should cost no more than \$25 for non-drivers and \$35 for drivers. The collection clinic will typically charge between \$20 and \$25 for specimen collection. It should take no more than 24 hours to get test results for non-drivers and 48 hours for drivers.