

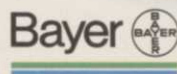


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Circle No. 111 on Reader Inquiry Card



Surfin' Turf

Bookmark some of these horticultural sites. They contain information that can increase your knowledge.

By DAVID WEINSTOCK AND CURT HARLER

HortWorld

<http://www.hortworld.com>

There are sites on the World Wide Web serving as hubs that consist of large collections of links, usually related in subject matter. These sites are called launch sites. One of the more attractively designed and larger horticultural launch sites is HortWorld. Sponsored by Betrock International Horticultural Network, this site features information of interest to both landscape and turf management professionals.

Turfworld features links to associations, turfgrass Web sites, institutions and a trade shows calendar. It also features an extensive library of research and reference materials on turfgrass disease and management topics from 15 major commercial and educational research institutions.

Another interesting HortWorld feature is PlantSearch Online, a

search engine designed to locate sources of plants for wholesalers. We entered "Japanese yew" into PlantSearch and it generated a list of 35 sources. Each source had a name, address, telephone number, a letter-coded description of the requested stock and a dated listing of its entire inventory. If the source has a Web site, their name was published as a link.

HortWorld also features a linked list of addresses and homepages of botanical gardens in the United States — required reading for vacationing landscape and turf professionals who just can't get enough green!

Florida Plants Online

<http://www.floridaplants.com>

What is it about Florida and Web sites?! Last time we went turf surfing, we unearthed the delightful and informative floridaturf.com. This time, we found Florida Plants Online.

This site is GIGANTIC...and did we mention, beautifully designed (not that we're gushing, or anything)? For Florida landscapers, this is the must-see site, just as floridaturf.com is the required stop for all surfing Florida turfgrass professionals.

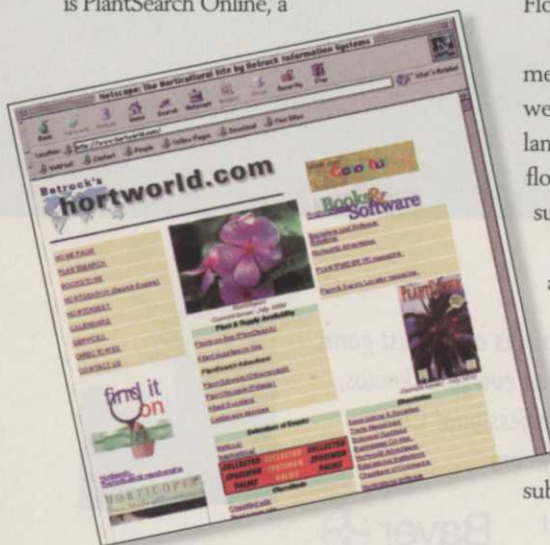
Florida Plants Online covers just about every facet of botany within the geographical confines of the state of Florida. Landscaping, design, agriculture, horticulture, mangroves, aquascaping, nurseries, tree canopies...and that is just a little more than half the subject matter available here.



Each page is tastefully laid out with linked subjects on the left and a beautiful close-up photograph of a Florida plant or animal on the right. Backgrounds are white framed in green.

In addition to all the professional material, this site also has an informative section designed for children called the "Young Naturalist." It features some pages for coloring as well as a number of Web links to sites featuring photographs of Florida plants and animals and their habitats.

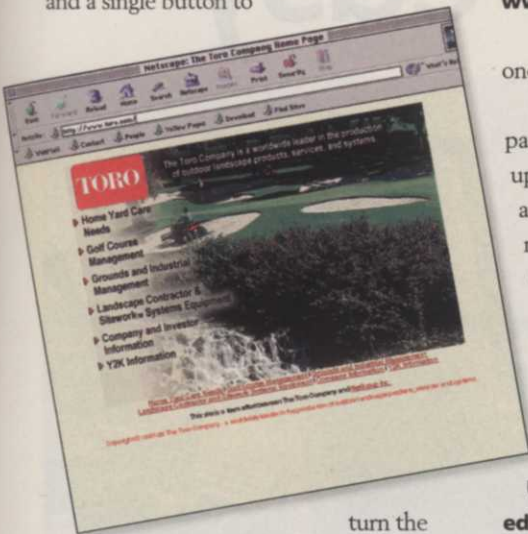
Leigh M. Fulghum, site editor, is a professional botanist who has worked in south Florida as a landscape designer for 23 years. He grows red mangroves for aquarium supply and coastal restoration plantings. A "silent partner," Dan Remy, is owner of a landscape contracting/maintenance/arborist company. Two years ago, Fulghum convinced Remy that they should do some sort of Internet promotion concerned with plant and landscape sales. "For the most part, I just dove in to the net, amazed at how much scientific, horticultural and botanical material was published by research institutions in particular," he says. "It was clear to me that the wealth of information that is available would doubtlessly overwhelm the typical Florida homeowner with landscape questions. Accordingly, I embarked on organizing pointers to the most sought after information about Florida native and exotic plants, and every aspect of their presence in this state, to help citizens empower themselves with good plant information."



The Toro Company

<http://www.toro.com>

An engineer we once knew remarked that the early Volkswagen Beetles were machines that were beautiful in their simplicity. The dashboard instruments consisted of nothing more than a speedometer, a radio and a single button to



turn the headlights off and on.

Similar spartan elegance earned The Toro Company's Web site its place in this month's Surf'n Turf column.

The Toro Company has created the kind of site Web denizens have come to expect from a commercial firm. It is slick and full of professional-grade photography of people sitting atop Toro lawnmowers or working with other assorted pieces of red equipment. And like many corporate sites, the designers opted for the conservative approach.

But what is working on this site is its organization. Turf surfers will waste no time here because its designers opted to use a straightforward menu system on the site's front page. The opening page features five links to take visitors to view specific and distinct product lines: home machines, golf course management, grounds management, landscaping and recycling and debris management. There is a sixth link for company information. Links take visitors to still

more tastefully done pages that feature short text descriptions accompanied by more professional photography that depicts various Toro products.

In short, it is Web advertising done right — even if a bit conservative.

Texas Turfgrass Association
www.texasurf.com

If you're a Texan, this site should be one of your bookmarks.

The Texas Turfgrass Association has a page where prospective members can sign up. But more important is the questions-and-answers section. Looking for information about a particular seed variety? Got red rust on ryegrass? Have a vexing problem with insects? Post a question to the bulletin board and look for a practical, helpful answer from another member or someone in the industry within a couple of hours.

University of Florida
edis.ifas.ufl.edu

If Bahia, Bermuda, St. Augustine or zoysiagrass are part of your daily work schedule, check out the Florida Agricultural Information Retrieval System. Get to the opening page at www.edis.ifas.ufl.edu and there is a variety of quick links to insect, seed, fertilization, safety and other agronomic information.

Want to know how to manage nematodes? How to establish a Florida lawn? Or looking for weed management tips for Florida turfgrass pros? They all are on the University of Florida site.

There are several "extras" at this site, including a scrolling update of activities and news, a trivia slot (did you know the Florida Lubber grasshopper can reach three inches in length?) and easy links. But best of all is the true search engine on the home page that allows you to type in keyword searches just as one would on Yahoo! or Alta Vista.

University of Illinois
Turfgrass Program
<http://www.turf.uiuc.edu>



Forget, for a minute, that this site is dedicated to promoting a university program. Forget, too, that it is one of the better-designed sites we reviewed for this article.

What makes this site great is its dedication to the Internet tradition of passing visitors along to the next best site. It has the best collection of links we've seen thus far (bar none!) to help lawn care and turfgrass professionals navigate this worldwide network of computer networks.

It is also worth mentioning here that the only other site that came close to the Illinois site's links collection is the Sydney Cricket and Football Stadium links page. But that site was slightly less discriminating than this one.

That's a key point. Illinois' Web site isn't listed because of the sheer volume of its links. Rather, it seems its webmasters cast their discriminating eyes over the hundreds of turfgrass links available on the Web and chose the ones they thought were the most information-rich.

The opening menu of its links collection has 13 category listings, ranging from commercial links, to education, to instructional sites on pests, diseases, chemicals and management topics. Each category, depicted as a file folder, contains either subdirectories or direct links, some containing more than others do. **LM**

—The authors are freelance writers who peruse the Web regularly for new and fascinating green industry sites.

Irrigation trenching made easy

Discover the secret to installing irrigation—using the proper horsepower for the job.

By RICHARD YACH

Using the right trenching equipment to install irrigation can make or break the successful completion of the job — and even your profitability.

Choosing a machine that's too small to handle the ground conditions and the task may mean you finish late. This results in higher labor costs and added machine repair. Choose a machine that's too large and the outsized muscle may cut a trench larger than what you want and escalate your backfill and compaction costs.

Mike Hubbard, rubber tire trenching specialist for Vermeer Manufacturing, Pella, IA, outlines the five criteria to consider when choosing the right-sized trencher for irrigation installations:

- ▶ depth of service,
- ▶ width of the service line,
- ▶ project deadlines,
- ▶ size of the project and
- ▶ ground conditions.

"If you have an 8-in. water line feeding off a main supply source, and you have to put a bed of pea gravel backfill around it, the trench cut needs to be a full foot wide. This will put you in the 50-hp trencher class right away, especially if the service will be laid four to eight feet down," he explains.

"The depth at which you want to lay the line matters. You can get a smaller horsepower unit to cut a fairly narrow



A landscape contractor uses the the V-5750 when work requires a ride-on model.



Davis Landscaping, Harrisburg, PA, uses a LM-42 to plow in the laterals.

trench — say four to six inches at shallow depths — but at deeper depths, only a larger horsepower trencher will get you the desired productivity.”

The next step, he continues, is to inspect and respect the ground conditions. “You can always go with a smaller horsepower unit if the ground conditions are good. But if the ground conditions will be tough, you need more weight and horsepower — a trencher that’s built to take the abuse that tough ground conditions will deliver.”

Hard rock, hard work

To illustrate, Hubbard points to the Raleigh-Durham Airport, where 77,000 feet of irrigation piping were planted and connected in the rocky ground surrounding it. Crews were from Davis Landscaping Inc., Harrisburg, PA.

For years before the international airport was built, this area between the twin cities was a dumping ground for granite shard blasted away when nearby I-40, the Raleigh-Durham Parkway and other construction projects were excavated. That meant Davis had to plan for rough conditions going in.

Scott Maherg, irrigation manager for Davis Landscaping, describes the conditions that his crews had to contend with.

“North Carolina may be thought of having a lot of red clay, but this airport is the highest elevated area in the center of North Carolina. There is bedrock at the 30-ft. depth mark. In addition, when they

built the roads, the NCDOT left tons of fractured stone backfill at depths up to a foot around the entire airport. That’s exactly where we’re working,” he says.

“All of the contractors that have worked in this area, from fiber optic to the gas-line pipeliners, know that if you bid a job at the airport, you bid it for working in rock.”

The entire irrigation system is run by two different water supplies, one from the drinking water and the other from a 400-gpm pump station that provides water from a lake sitting next to the project.

The pipeline diameters that Davis Landscaping installed ranged from 12-in. mains at the source of the water supplies down to a 3/4-in. diameter for the laterals. In all, there were about 2,000 sprinkler heads installed throughout the 14-mile-long system looped around the airport grounds.

To successfully work the piping into the ground required careful planning and the right equipment. Davis Landscaping brought their 40-hp mechanical trencher up from a Charleston, SC, golf course where it had been used.

“The specs called for the 8-in. line to be surrounded by two inches of crushed gravel backfill, so we needed to make a 12-in.-wide trench up to four feet deep for these main lines,” explains Maherg.

“As the lines progressively decreased in size, we strategically used other rubber tire trenchers in our fleet. The riding trenchers

were used to put in the 2 1/2- to 3 1/2-in. diameter PVC lines, and the lawn plow was used to plow in the laterals.

“The benefits of using the 40- or 50-hp trenchers in these conditions became evident to us,” he says. “If we were trenching and ran into a boulder, we could turn the machines around and use the backhoe bucket to remove the rock and keep our productivity up. But the rock trenching took its toll, as we expected. We wore out chains and buckets of shark teeth getting the rough job of trenching done.”

Lawn plow to the rescue

The innovative use of the lawn plow in these conditions was perhaps the most surprising construction development. When it came to laying in the 3/4-in. PVC laterals, rather than cut a trench 18 inches deep, they used the vibratory plow to pull the pipe in.

“This vibratory plow was capable of pulling in glued 20-ft. lengths of PVC up to 120 feet. This greatly improved our productivity for the thousands of feet of lateral we had to install,” explains Maherg.

“Since the specs called for the PVC pipe rather than flexible polyethylene, we had to use the best method and the right machine to get the smaller diameter PVC in. What allowed us to pull PVC with the lawn plow was the fact that we had many 120-ft. straight runs. And with the runs straight, pulling in glued sticks of PVC was no different than pulling in poly pipe. What we did to lessen ground friction and reduce the chance of the PVC pipe scoring on the trench wall was to place an 1 1/2-in. diameter bullet on the plow blade that gave the pipe added clearance as it was pulled in.”

According to Hubbard, the desired width and depth of trench will always determine what machine is needed. Taking into account the ground conditions — plus a large dose of contractor innovation — also makes a big difference.

LM

The author is a technical writer in Des Moines, Iowa.

Motivating moss

Many of my residential landscape clients live in shady old neighborhoods. These shady lawns are becoming mostly moss, which looks better than the grass, so we would rather have all moss and no grass. How do I plant more moss and where can I purchase it?

— OHIO

Encouraging moss growth is relatively simple: rake, sweep, pack and wait. Mosses prefer shade and most prefer acid soils, but if you have mosses growing already, you have mosses which like the site as it is.

To establish moss in a new site, a soil test at a shallow root depth should have a pH around 5.5. You increase the acidity of the soil with aluminum sulfate or ferrous sulfate, which takes about two to three weeks to take effect, while sulfur dust or chips take two to three months to become effective and must be applied after the soil warms up (late May). Scrape away the grass to apply the chemical, as it can take up to six months to take effect when applied with the turf in place.

To encourage moss growth, pull out the grasses. Sweep clean and roll the surface (if needed), as moss grows best on a smooth, firm, clay soil surface. You do not need to be aggressive in compacting—a firm tamping should be sufficient. Keep the site moist (not wet) until you see a green film. A light daily sprinkling should be sufficient, but not so heavy that the soil erodes.

Moss is easy to transplant. Simply take a piece and press it into the new location. Site preparation is easy too—just scratch the soil to loosen lightly, before you place the moss. Pat the moss down firmly and keep it watered for a week. Take small pieces of moss and place them where you desire the moss to grow.

Another technique is to take some moss, crumble it and place the fragments on moist soil or peat. Cover the moss with cheesecloth and keep moist. Within a few weeks you should have a carpet of moss. The moss can then be cut into pieces and placed in the desired location (the cheesecloth disintegrates).

Moss benefits from follow-up care. Protect it from heavy leaf fall and leaf collection. One method is to lay plastic mesh netting on the ground (prior to leaf fall) and use it to lift the leaves off the moss. Leave the mesh on through the winter and use it to remove any debris from the moss in the spring.

Locations for purchasing moss are limited, and if you have mosses already on-site you may be better off encouraging them. However, Bernie Margolis grows mosses in West Bloomfield, MI and can be reached at his business, China Center, at 248/788-7790. Margolis also recommends fertilization a couple of times a season with an organic, high N liquid fertilizer, such as Rapid Grow, for an extra boost.

Not apple scab

We are seeing some red to tan leaf spots on a number of crabapple trees in our city streets. Any idea of what this might be? It is not apple scab. It is more prevalent on older trees. How can we control this?

—OHIO

Based on your description of the leaf spot symptom, it appears to be a fungal disease caused by *Phylospora malorum*. This disease is also called "Frog eye" leaf spot. This disease is reportedly severe, particularly on older trees. When this disease is severe, extensive defoliation can occur as the season progresses. As you mentioned, the leaf spots would be tan with a well defined purple border.

I have also noticed some leaves with purple discoloration without any distinct border. I don't think that these are related to "Frog eye" leaf spot. These are probably associated with nutrient deficiency and need further research.

To manage the problem consider using fungicides labeled for apple scab such as Cleary's 3333, Banner, Rubigan, etc. Also purchase disease-resistant crabapple trees for further plantings. **LM**



BALAKRISHNA RAO

Manager of Research and
Technical Development
for the Davey Tree Expert
Company, Kent, Ohio

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO:

"Ask the Expert"

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Cleveland, OH 44130
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Please allow two to three months for an answer to appear in the magazine.



◀ YardMaster's Bill Pike increases his crew's efficiency by keeping in touch.

tried to solve your communications needs by using a two-way radio system, even though you know all too well the many limitations of this method.

Two-way complications

Consider the experience of Yardmaster, a TruGreen-Land-Care landscape contracting firm headquartered in Painesville, OH, which found its analog two-way radio system was unable to provide communications over the extended regional area the company serves. Yardmaster communicates through between its branches in Cleveland and Columbus, OH.

"We have an average of 55 field crews spread across the entire northeastern Ohio area on any given work day," explains Anthony Vitari, area manager for Yardmaster's maintenance division. "We were forced to abandon the two-way radio system due to its seriously inadequate coverage."

Crowded airwaves

Another landscaping company in the same market faced similar problems with two-way radios. Nair Landscaping, which has 15 to 18 crews out of offices in both Medina and Hudson, OH, continuously experienced extensive interference from outside sources over its radio system, which hampered communication between crew workers, field supervisors and managers back in the office. And since two-way radio technology required all the company's units to use the same channel for communication, backups and delays in disseminating information were commonplace.

"Only one person could be on the system at a time," says Sue Russo, director of marketing for Nair Landscaping. "Analog two-way radio was not a very feasible solution" for them. For the 70-employee company, the system's lack of portability was another major obstacle that stood in the way of complete productivity.

Communication is a tangled web of problems for most landscape and lawn care contractors, at least the busy ones. You're serving customers over a wide geographic area, so costs for cellular phones with roaming and long distance charges can be pro-

hibitive. On any given day, you might have to reach several work crews who are out in the field or you might have to reach from several different locations to coordinate their activities.

Work schedules during the day are a fluid, moving target, so your supervisors need to be able to find you with

progress reports in order to stay close to schedule. With the wide variety of communications technology available today, where do you turn for solutions to these problems?

If you are like many contractors, you have

Wireless and loving it

Imagine how much more efficient your company can be if you could communicate with your crews instantaneously.

You can with digital two-way radios.

As Russo explained, "The radio units had to be mounted inside our work trucks, so someone had to be inside or very close by the truck in order to receive incoming calls; otherwise, we couldn't make contact."

As an alternative to the analog two-way radio system, Yardmaster and Nair began using a wireless system provided by Nextel Communications. There, they found a system that had the benefits of digital two-way radio communication, a cellular phone service without the high cost of other carriers and a variety of other features that have given them the ability to run more efficiently and productively. The system is based on Motorola handsets that combine four communications technologies into one device:

- ▶ digital cellular,
- ▶ digital two-way radio,
- ▶ text/numeric paging,
- ▶ voice mail.

The digital two-way radio feature, Nextel Direct ConnectSM, allows a user to instantly contact one or up to 100 coworkers at the same time, much like using a traditional two-way radio. Digital's coverage minimizes problems with coverage range, interference or channel backup.

"We get reception everywhere we need it," says Russo.

The portability of the phone gives instant communication with everyone in the field, instead of keeping workers next to their truck-mounted two-way radios or playing the game of pager tag. "It cuts out so much time and effort," she says. "You can get in touch with anyone, anywhere, when you need to."

Vitari agrees. "We're as close to seamless communication as we can get."

Extend your range

For both companies, the extended range of the digital two-way radio, along with its clarity, is an improvement over the older analog radio systems they previously used. Russo and Vitari both report that they're able to keep in touch with crews over hundreds of square miles using the inexpensive radio air time, a capability that just wasn't available with their previous systems.

"From my office in Cleveland," says Russo, "I'm able to use it to reach someone in Columbus and even Cincinnati, which is four hours away from here, as easy as if they were in the next block."

The new system was especially cost-efficient for Yardmaster. When Nextel evaluated Yardmaster's cell phone use, it found that approximately 65% of the calls were made to the office or to a few other frequently dialed numbers. These calls could be handled through direct connection. Even though Yardmaster has increased its communications with workers by nearly 40% in the two years since switching to the service, it has not had a corresponding increase in communications costs.

24/7 communications

The digital cellular service also allows Yardmaster's and Nair Landscaping's sales representatives and managers to remain in constant contact with customers and the office, improving each company's level of customer service and opening up opportunities for more business.

"Our sales reps are directly accessible," says Vitari of the system. "There's no need to leave messages and wait around for a return call. We have direct contact."

The integrated wireless communication service eliminates roaming charges and per-second rounding on all digital cellular calls flat rate pricing for long distance. This saved both companies additional costs. The messaging service allows field employees to receive voice, text or numeric messages 24 hours a day, even when their phones are off, which eliminates the need for an after-hours answering service. **LM**

Nextel, which provides integrated all-digital wireless service, has offices throughout the country. Or visit www.nextel.com on the Web.

The extended range of the digital two-way radio, along with its clarity, is an improvement over the older analog systems...



The Bil-Jax Escalate Equipment trailer has a load capacity of 4,000 lbs. The trailer's entire bed lowers to the ground.



Hook-All Hooklift trucks from Automated Waste Equipment have a single rotation point and dual-lift cylinders rated at 2400 psi hydraulics.



Carry two mowers with Smithco Double Mow-n-Go unit. It features an automatic lockdown system to hold mowers in place.

ITEMS THAT KEEP YOU TRUCKIN'

By CURT HARLER/ Contributing Editor

Whether the duty sheet calls for mowing, seeding, snow plowing or spraying, one piece of equipment is sure to be involved — a truck. In fact, typical landscapers spend almost as much time in or around the company truck as they do in their offices.

One of the key accessories for any truck is the trailer. The right trailer can make the day's work go a lot easier. The wrong one can turn every unloading or loading operation into a drag — it even can make highway transport a drag, quite literally.

This month we look at a number of quality trailers designed to make a landscaper's working life easy. But there are other accessories which can make truckin' around on the job more profitable and more controllable. These range from on-board computers to safety equipment to systems that make handling big loads safer.

All of these truck accessories are designed with the landscaping or lawn care business professional in mind. Check out the products available and send for information on the ones best suited to your needs. Be sure to tell the vendors you saw their products in *LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT*.

AA-TACH
888/922-8224
www.aatach.com

The Sweeping System, from AA-Tach, installs on a pickup truck in five minutes, making it a great sweeper for any area. Priced under \$14,000, it is powered by a 20-hp, Wisconsin Robin EY21 engine. It is rust-free and slides onto most domestic or foreign trucks. Unit stores on four stands.

Circle No. 250

ABBOTT ENTERPRISES
800/643-5973
www.abbott-tach.com

Go high-tech. On-board computer system gives a detailed record of date, start-time, service/delivery time, total miles driven and peak speed. AutoMate, from Abbott, stores data on a memory card which downloads into a computer. Software allows owner to create custom reports to meet particular needs.

Circle No. 251

>LM REPORTS

AUTOMATED WASTE EQUIPMENT 609/588-5400

Change from a flatbed to a dump body or a container body in minutes. The Hook-All Hooklift trucks from Automated are designed with a single rotation point and dual-lift cylinders rated at 2400 psi hydraulics. Controls are inside cab. Circle No 252

BIL-JAX 800/527-5333 www.biljax.com

The Workforce Escalate Equipment Trailer from Bil-Jax has a load capacity of 4,000 lbs. It is designed for safe and simple handling of mowers, trenchers, compactors and other equipment. Trailer's entire bed lowers to the ground, eliminating need to tilt the trailer and risk operator injury. One person easily can load equipment while trailer remains attached to the towing vehicle. Circle No. 253

CURB-KING 877/YES-CURB

The 1.6-, 3- and 4-cubic yard trailers are available from Curb-King. Trailers have heavy gauge fenders which double as walkways. Swing-up jack prevents dragging and damage. Locking toolbox saves unloading at night. Smallest unit has 3,500-lb. axle. The 3-yard model has 7,000-lb. axle and 18-foot bed; 4-yarder has dual tandem 10,000-lb. axles and 20-foot bed. Circle No. 254

D&D TRAILERS 609/771-0001

The Deande 6000L trailer is a 6,000-lb. gross, 4,500-lb. capacity unit made of 2x4 steel tubing. Main frame is 75 in., with 78 in. between fenders. Length is 96 in. It has 18.5-in. ground-to-deck clearance. There are electric brakes on both Dexter 4-



D&D trailer can haul 4,500 lbs.

in. drop axles with the DOT break-away pack. Unit can be built to 102 in. wide, or fitted with ramp gates, custom color or capacity upgrade. Circle No. 255

EZN RAMP SOLUTIONS OF TEXAS 281/482-8916

Turn your truck into a heavy-duty hauler with quick loading capacity on the EZN Ramp from EZN Ramp Solutions. It has a load capac-



EZN Ramp Solutions of Texas

ity of 2,000 lbs. Unique design allows it to take only 4 in. of cargo space when stowed. Takes seconds to unfold. Anti-slip surface of baked silicon carbide makes loading safe under all conditions. Circle No. 256

GALBREATH 800/285-0666 www.galbreath-inc.com

The 9,000-lb. capacity U9 hook hoist from Galbreath can be mounted on smaller trucks that



Galbreath's U9 hook hoist

don't require a commercial license. It accommodates either a 84- or 120-in. CA chassis and can handle containers from 8- to 12-ft. long. It requires a truck with 6,000-lb. front axle and power steering, and 12,000-lb. rear axle. Circle No. 257

HOLLAND EQUIPMENT, LTD. 800/457-8310 www.aerway.com

The Aerway Turf Dump Trailer from Holland Equipment in Norwich, Ontario has a full 4-yard capacity, tubular steel frame, 12-gauge steel hopper, 12-ply high flotation tires on 16-in. wheels, double-adjustable cam-latch tailgate and 12,000-lb. GVW. Options include a 12-volt electric/hydraulic power up/down pump and over-sized tires. Circle No. 258

LIFETIME PRODUCTS 800/369-5365

The Lift-A-Load trailer line from Lifetime Products is available in sizes from 3,000 to 15,000 lbs. The new EPT4-715 hauls up to 15,000 lbs at 30 mph or 12,000 lbs. at 55 mph.



Lifetime Products Lift-A-Load trailer available in many sizes.

Unit is 15 ft. by 6 ft. 2 in. wide. All units include enclosed hydraulics powered by the tow vehicle's 12-volt DC system. Gooseneck hitch, 30 in. tailgate/ramp and DC-powered winch available as options. Circle No. 259

READING BODY WORKS 800/458-2226 www.readingbody.com

Sturdy steel platform body is



Reading offers steel platform bodies in 8- to 12-ft. lengths.

available in 8-, 9-, 10- or 12-ft. lengths from Reading Body Works. Redi-Deck floor is 1/8-in. safety tread steel plate. Outside stake rack pockets allow full use of platform floor and are reinforced with 2x1/4-in. flat bar tie-downs for securing loads. Also works with gooseneck trailers. Cutouts allow remounting chassis stop, tail and turn-signal lights. Circle No. 260

SMITHCO 610/688-4009 www.smithco.com

Carry two mowers, loaded front-to-rear on the Double Mow-n-Go from Smithco. Unit uses an automatic lock-down, latching-bar system to hold mowers firmly in wheel-wells during transport, protecting against damage to knives, reels and rollers or changes in adjustments. Hand lever lowers bed for easy roll-on, roll-off loading. Drawbar adapts to all types of towing vehicles. Turf-tread tires are soft and wide with 13-psi pressure. Unit is customized to carry all major brands. Circle No. 261

SOUTH AG DISTRIBUTING 919/365-5111

The Proline tandem axle PLS16 Landscaper Special from SouthAg has a 78-in. wide bed (inside rail to inside rail) and is 16 ft. long. Made of 3-in. channel frame, not angle iron, it has 7,000-lb. GVW and 2.5-ton load capacity. Deck is 17-in. high with a removable 4-ft. ex-