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**Talstar** **EZ**  
GRANULAR INSECTICIDE

# LM Reports

continued from page 60



## Volvo

The new B-Series skid steer loaders from Volvo offer operator comfort with a super-comfort, high-back seat and your choice of controls — traditional hand and foot controls or pilot-operated joystick controls. The Volvo B-Series features a wide, tall opening into the operator's area, making it easy for the frequent exits and entries demanded by job conditions. Volvo skid steer loaders also provide outstanding visibility in all directions. For

safety, the B-Series is designed so that the hydraulics will not function and the brake is set until the operator lowers the seat bar and presses the hydraulic release button. The B Series includes five models, ranging from 45.3 hp and 1,500 lbs. operating capacity to 80.5 hp and 2,250 lbs. operating capacity.

For more information contact Volvo at 828/650-2000 or [www.volvo.com](http://www.volvo.com) / circle no. 259

## JCB

JCB 1110 Wheeled Robot skid steer loader has a single loader arm mounted in a low level, single tower on the right hand side of the machine. The single loader arm design offers a unhindered view to the rear and sides of the Robot for easier operation and greater on-site safety. JCB 1110 Robot is hydrostatically driven with two chain cases, with a spring-applied, hydraulically released, disc type parking brake mounted to each drive motor. Full servo control joysticks reduce lever efforts to a minimum. JCB 1110 skid steer loader has a rated operating capacity of 2,425 lbs.

For more information contact JCB at 800/Pick-JCB or [www.jcb.com](http://www.jcb.com) / circle no. 260



## Ramrod

The 905, 915, 950 and 1150 Ramrod Taskmasters handle the most demanding jobs. The 905 Taskmaster can be as narrow as 32 in. to work in constrained areas and the 915 can wide track to 44 in. There are more than 40 versatile, "quick on, quick off" attachments. From the low-step stand-on platforms, operators get a clear, 360 degree unobstructed view of their work area.

For more information contact Ramrod at 800/667-1581 or visit [www.ramrodequip.com](http://www.ramrodequip.com) / circle no. 261



Anteater (30,000 BC)



Frying pan (1847)



Sodium bicarbonate (1886)





### John Deere

John Deere's 300 Series skid steers offer customers a lower daily operating cost than their predecessors. Superior stability results in faster speeds and quicker cycles. This stability is delivered by a low center of gravity due to heavy components being mounted lower in the frame; a long wheelbase that provides smoother ride with less fore-to-aft rocking; optimal balance due to 60/40 weight distribution on the front and rear axles; and larger tires. A patented vertical-lift boom provides a true vertical lift pattern. The 300 Series features the company's patented Quik-Tatch

technology—which provides attachment engagement and disengagement from the operator's seat with a push of a button. Powerful hydraulics delivered to the loader boom, bucket and attachments also enhance productivity.

For more information contact John Deere at 800/503-3373 or [www.johndeere.com](http://www.johndeere.com) / circle no. 262

### Ditch Witch

Interchangeable attachments increase the versatility and value of Ditch Witch mini skid steer loaders. Attachments are available for trenching, vibratory plowing, pavement and rock sawing and utility backhoe work.

At less than 36 in. wide, the Ditch Witch SK350 Mini Skid Steer can go anywhere you need it. The Ditch Witch SK300 is a 13-hp, track-mounted, platform mini skid steer. The SK500 is a track-mounted, walk along mini skid steer. The SK650's powerful 31.5-hp Kubota diesel engine and hydraulic system give it the muscle to do the jobs of much larger machines.

For more information contact Ditch Witch at 800/654-6481 or [www.ditchwitch.com](http://www.ditchwitch.com) / circle no. 263



### Gehl

Gehl Co.'s 7810E skid loader is loaded with power, strength and speed. The 7810E Skid Loader is powered by a Cummins 99-hp turbo-charged diesel engine with high (305 ft.-lbs.) torque. It has an increased SAE rated load capacity of 3,850 lbs. The 7810E has a host of features, including true vertical-lift linkage, which provides consistent forward reach throughout the entire lift cycle, and a lift height of nearly 12 ft. The new 7810E Skid Loader delivers bucket breakout force of 8,340 lbs. A 2-speed drive is available, which offers ground speeds up to 12.5 mph. For more information contact Gehl Co. at 800-628-0491 or [www.gehl.com](http://www.gehl.com) / circle no. 264



Blowtorch (1926)



Shoe (1954)



Newspaper (1962)

# LM Reports



## Vermeer

Vermeer Manufacturing Co.'s S600tx rubber track mini-skid steer features a spring-cushioned platform and two single-joystick controls with operator-handle grip that allows operators to keep their balance while operating any of the machine functions. A machine width of 35.75 in. allows the S600tx to maneuver through gates and other confined areas. The 7- or 9-in. tracks provide enhanced stability and lower operating ground pressure.

For more information contact Vermeer at 888/VERMEER or [www.vermeer.com](http://www.vermeer.com) / circle no. 265



## Caterpillar

The Caterpillar 287B Multi Terrain Loader is available with the Cat High Flow XPS hydraulic system for high productivity when using hydraulically demanding work tools. The load-sensing, variable displacement piston pump delivers high pressure and high auxiliary hydraulic flow for maximum hydraulic horsepower and performance. The 287B Multi Terrain Loader is the largest of the five Caterpillar Multi Terrain Loaders, which are compact, rubber-tracked machines designed for exceptional versatility, flotation, traction, stability and ride quality. The 287B has operating capacity of 3,600 lbs., when defined as 50% of tipping load.

For more information contact Caterpillar at 309/675-5175 or [www.cat.com](http://www.cat.com) / circle no. 266



## Compact Power Inc.

With its slim 36-in. footprint, the PowerHouse PH-850 Mini Skid Steer from Compact Power, Inc. will zip through the narrowest work areas, and packs more than enough power to get the job done. The PowerHouse PH-850 offers a full 850 lbs. lifting capacity, combined with two bucket cylinders for maximum front end strength and a breakout force of 2,200 lbs.

For more information contact Compact Power Inc. at 800/476-9673 or [www.cpiequipment.com](http://www.cpiequipment.com) / circle no. 267



Magnifying glass (1977)



Garden hose (1984)



30-day fire ant formula (2005)

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Advion® fire ant bait (2007)

Circle 128

A blue Ford Super Duty truck is shown from a front-quarter view, parked in front of a large stack of cement bags. The truck's grille features the Ford logo and the words "SUPER DUTY". The cement bags are stacked in a grid pattern, with the words "PORTLAND CEMENT" visible on many of them. The scene is set in a warehouse or storage area with a concrete floor.

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**BOLD MOVES**



# Front runners

**Out-front riding mowers are rugged, detail-oriented and attachment friendly.**

BY KAY OHLY

**N**eed a workhorse that can glide over rough patches and mow into ditches? How about a machine configured to handle attachments of all sorts, a go-to for large jobs and detail-oriented properties with trimming requirements?

Look out front for the solution.

Front-cut riding mowers, also called out-front riders, consume a modest percentage of the mower market. But sales in this sector climbed while other categories slipped in the beginning of 2007, according to the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI). Mark Naperala, director of marketing for Ariens Co. in Brillion, WI, says more landscape contractors are warming up to this option. "The market has grown because other manufacturers have entered it," he says, adding that OPEI statistics do not report sales from one major front-cut supplier,

so "the true number of units entering the market is hard to tell."

But industry trends give landscape contractors reason to consider these hearty machines. As municipalities and schools outsource landscape services, contractors who win these jobs need heavier-duty equipment.

"Out-front riders can perform production-type mowing better than a ZTR can," says Gilbert Pena, commercial segment strategy manager, John Deere, Cary, NC. "Say a landscaper gets a three- to five-year contract with a municipality. They would be better off investing in an out-front rider vs. a ZTR."

Besides, front-cut mowers can accommodate a collection of attachments, manage large mowing jobs and handle slopes and rough terrain with ease. "The front-cut deserves a bigger share of the market than it is currently enjoying," remarks Bob Walker, president of Fort Collins, CO-based Walker Mowers. In many respects, education is the missing piece to this configuration's market share.

## Technically speaking

The out-front configuration resembles a rearranged zero-turn unit. Rather than stacking the deck and tractor like a mid-mount zero, out-fronts divide the machine into a tractor unit and the deck.

"The cutting part is lightly loaded, so it can float," Walker describes, noting that cutting deck sizes range from 36 to 74 inches.

Operators can enjoy the maneuverability of a zero-turn along with out-front deck advantages, including better traction on slopes, a smoother ride on rough terrain and versatility with an array of attachments. Also, landscape contractors whose jobsites require tedious trimming can knock out this task with one pass of an out-front rider.

"The operator sits at the actual pivot point of the mower, so turning and maneuvering occurs almost as an extension of the operator's body," describes R. A. Stucky, marketing director for The Grasshopper Co., Moundridge, KS.

*continued on page 70*



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**Cut for quality**

Productivity drives the buying decision for most landscapers, but how long does it take to mow and complete finishing work? In other words, if the cut takes 15 minutes, will the contractor spend another half hour going back over the property with a string trimmer to access hard-to-reach areas? Champions of the front-cut configuration rally by its ability to deliver a quality cut in a single pass.

The front-cutting deck sits on a different mounting system than the tractor body of the mower. Therefore, the cutting component can move independently to work into the nooks and crannies of a landscape, such as ditches, slopes, under brush and

continued on page 72

**A fit for the job**

Not sure whether a front-cut configuration is the right fit for your fleet? First consider your job requirements. Following are scenarios where out-front riders excel in performance:

**Trimming work** – The front-mounted deck is an ideal trimming platform, and the mower can skim right alongside sidewalks, plant beds and other borders.

**Wide, open spaces** – Larger deck sizes, ranging from 58 to 72 in. and beyond, are suitable for municipal, school and expansive commercial jobs.

**Snow jobs** – Attach snow removal equipment to manage winter jobs, parking lot cleanup, etc. Just be sure to purchase enough horsepower. Twenty-five to 31 hp is suitable.

**Rough terrain** – The longer length of front-cut mowers distributes weight more evenly and helps absorb vibration caused by rugged terrain.

**Ditches and slopes** – Because the deck conforms to the ground, and can move independently of the power unit, out-front riders can ease into ditches and have a four-wheel drive traction advantage on slopes.

– KO



Out-front mowers allow multiple attachments.

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