

All-Electric Commercial Mowers Quiet But Powerful

Despite the name, Joe Conrad's Mean Green electric lawn mowers are more like purring cats. They are quiet. The "mean" refers to how rugged and effective they are for commercial users.

The latest model, ReVolt electric walk-behind mower, is part of Conrad's personal revolt against gas-powered motors. The former airplane mechanic included aeronautical design concepts in developing ReVolt and other electric mowers in his line of Mean Green Mowers built in Hamilton, Ohio.

"We have the only commercial electric mowers that will run all day on one battery charge," Conrad says. "We use efficient lithium batteries that are light and powerful."

Working with his son, Matt, "the mastermind behind the styling and design," the mowers have other notable differences.

"There are a lot of lightening holes in

the framework where there is no structural relevance. That reduces weight (one-third of standard mowers) but keeps the strength. There are also a lot of bends, which adds extreme rigidity," Conrad says. "We don't use much welding. We use bolts for fasteners so it's rigid but also flexible, like airplane wings."

The mowers have a suspension system similar to the landing gear of a plane to create a softer ride. An extra low center of gravity provides control when mowing on slopes.

But the biggest difference operators notice is the mower's low noise, zero emissions, and low maintenance. Conrad is also pleased to have the mowers made in the U.S. The work is done locally, and his wife, Chris, handles much of the marketing and office tasks.

The family-run business offers a variety of packages for lawn mowing entrepreneurs, starting at \$2,499 for a 20-in. push mower,

battery and charger.

The 24 hp., 52-in. deck ReVolt sells for \$16,450 and includes two large battery packs for 6 1/2 hrs. of operation.

Mean Green Mowers also has a 60-in. industrial, zero-turn riding mower and other equipment.

"The initial cost is higher, but it's economically smart," Conrad says. "Our goal is to make electric mowers more mainstream and competitive with gas mowers in price."

Mowers can be purchased through the website and U.S. dealers and distributors in the UK and New Zealand.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mean Green Products, 4404 Hamilton Cleves Rd., Hamilton, Ohio 45013 (ph 513 738-4736; www.meangreenmowers.com; sales@meangreenproducts.com).



Along with wife Chris and son Matt, Joe Conrad has developed a line of rugged electric commercial mowers equipped with unique features.

"Made-To-Order" Skid Steers

There's a new skid steer manufacturer in Wisconsin, and they're building machines exactly the way end-users want them. Will Wright is group manager for Wacker-Neuson skid steers and he says their new machines may look like others in the marketplace, but that's where the similarity stops. Actually the design is completely new from the ground up. Wright says the engineering team selected components based on efficiency, quality and value for the end-user.

The Kohler KDI engines produce outstanding torque while using a diesel oxidation catalyst after treatment. This component is maintenance and regeneration-free, without any moving parts or daily service needs. The engine has an industry-leading 4,000-hr. warranty.

WN skid steers use Bosch Rexroth track drive motors, built for efficiency and quietness without maintenance. Other drive components are supplied by recognizable names like Poclain, Danfoss, Casappa, Hydac

and Hydro Control. Camso supplies the tires and tracks.

Wright says the design concepts of their new machines were based on engineers interviewing dealers and customers for input on features, power, performance, and value. After prototypes were built, end-users and dealers operated the machines and provided initial feedback. They liked what they saw in the large, pressurized pod cab that keeps out dust and tilts forward for easy engine maintenance if the lift arms are up or down. Wright says it's the best cab on the market, fully-isolated from the machine with an over-sized front window for better visibility. Ergonomics used for controls and seating provide optimum operator comfort.

Wacker-Neuson introduced four medium-frame skid steers and two compact track-loaders in 2017 with operating capacity from 1,600 lbs. to 2,800 lbs. Engines are 56 or 74 hp. Machines can be made-to-order with an open or closed cab along with various



The design of new Wacker-Neuson skid loader was based on a lot of feedback from dealers and customers.

hydraulic, ride and operator control options. Wright says most options are available as dealer install kits so machines can be easily configured to end-user needs.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Wacker Neuson Corp., N92 W15000 Anthony Ave., Menomonee Falls, Wis. 53051 (ph 262 255-0500; www.wackerneuson.us).

"Sleeve Hitch" For Deere Square Fender Tractors

Evan Hallgarth recently sent FARM SHOW photos of a new "sleeve hitch" he designed for old Deere garden tractors equipped with square fenders. The tractors were built from 1968 to 1980.

The hitch is designed for Deere 110, 112, 120, and 140 models, as well as 200 and some 300 series models. It bolts onto the rear part of the tractor frame and comes with spring-loaded locking pins. No tools are required.

According to Hallgarth, many people who own these tractor models want to use them with single bottom moldboards at plowing shows. Unfortunately, they can't always find the hitches they need.

"At one time Deere made sleeve hitches for single bottom moldboard plows, but they stopped making them when they stopped making square fender tractors," says Hallgarth. "My hitch is a copy of the Deere model, and it can also be used with other attachments including small disks and one-row cultivators. Brinly-Hardy makes all 3 of these products, and I sell them. My hitches are being sold by Hapco Inc., a company which supplies Deere lawn and garden tractor parts. I actually sell single bottom plows, discs, and one-row cultivators made by Brinly-Hardy."

Hallgarth says he also plans to build sleeve hitches for Deere 110 and 112 round fender



Evan Hallgarth's "sleeve hitches" let you use Deere square fender garden tractors to pull single bottom moldboard plows.

tractors and also for Deere 400 models.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Evan Hallgarth (ph 765 561-8740; ehallgarth1@gmail.com); or Brandon Pfeiffer, Hapco, Inc., 8977 Framewood Drive, Newburgh, Ind. 47630 (ph 812 455-5870; www.hapcoparts.com).



Rake Handle Adapters

The grounds crew at Stone Hill Winery in Herman, Missouri came up with a great idea for using plastic rakes to pick up yard debris. Their wood handles make the rake heads work as natural extensions of their hands, making it easy to pick up piles of leaves and other debris.

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