



Ditch Witch SK650 mini skid steer.

kid steer "mini"

les Machine manufacturer Witch underd construc-tion equipment, has released its most powerful and pro-ductive mini skid steer to date.

Equipped with a 31-hp Kubota turbo diesel engine, the SK650 is the only mini skid steer that directs 20 net horsepower to the attachment, enabling this relatively small platform unit to outperform other machines of comparable size. Product Manager Mike

"The SK650 has a number of features that really make the operator's life easier," says Mike Lumbers, product manager. "For example, both the fuel and hydraulic tanks are mounted on the outside of the machine's frame. Because the fuel tank is exterior-mounted, we could make it larger, and we did. With an eight-gallon capacity, most jobs can be completed without stopping to fuel. Also, with the hydraulic tank on the outside we could increase it's capacity for more efficient hydraulic performance."

Nor does the operator have to shut down the machine to change attachments. Quick-disconnect attachment fittings enable attachments to be changed with the hydraulic system under pressure, which speeds productivity. The SK650 is also equipped with a foot pedal auxiliary control that allows the operator to drive the attachment by foot, freeing up his hands to control depth and ground speed.

To further enhance the accuracy and efficiency of each SK650 attachment, Ditch Witch engineers mounted an attachment-level indicator to the attachment lift frame, allowing the operator to see from the operator's station if the attachment is level. "We've also included a float section on the auxiliary valve to enable the operator to make more efficient use of attachments such as the carry-all leveler, box blade, vibratory plow, and other attachments that follow the contour of the ground," says Lumbers.

Greater operator comfort was a top priority when designing the SK650. Pilot control valves for ground drive provide highly responsive steering with little or no vibration through the control handles, minimizing operator fatigue.

Apache sprayer gets a six-speed

For 2006, Equipment Technologies has introduced two models to its Apache lineup. The AS710 is a 750 gal. unit, while AS1010 can be ordered with a 850 or 1,000 gal. tank.

Available with a 36 in., 42 in. or 48 in. crop clearance, the AS1010 effectively consolidates two previous Apache models: the AS850 and AS1000. The AS1010 uses a six-cylinder 205 hp Cummins engine and a six-speed, JCB power-shift transmission.

"The AS850 was our flagship product," says Matt Hays, CEO,

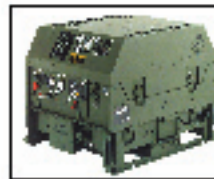
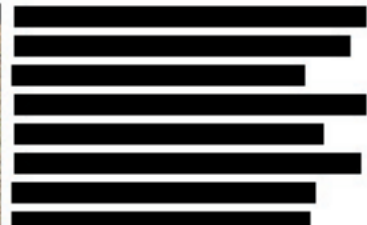
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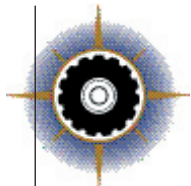


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Equipment Technology's Apache AS710 and AS1010 two-wheel-drive sprayers.

Equipment Technologies, “and the most common request we got from customers was that they wanted a six-speed transmission for a wider range of speeds while spraying.”

Equipment Technologies approached its supplier, International Transmissions Ltd. (JCB), and after extensive testing the transmission was approved for the sprayer application. The decision was then made to merge the best of the two best-selling

Apache sprayers, including the 205 hp Cummins engine from the AS1000.

The AS710 offers value for the small farmer, with a 750 gal. tank, four-speed transmission and 155 hp Deere engine.

The Apache models (the line also includes the AS510 and AS1210) also get a redesigned operator's console and new electronic features, including Raven's steering guidance and AutoBoom boom leveling systems.

McCormick's C-Max Mudder tractors

McCormick Int'l. USA has added the all-new C-Max Mudder Series, a new range of utility tractors that offers exceptional ground clearance for many specialty crop applications.

The new series ranges from 82 to 99 engine hp (73 to 88 PTO hp) and utilizes the latest four-cylinder Perkins 1100 Series engines. The 4.4-liter engines not only meet Stage 2, Tier II emission levels, but also run more quietly, reducing bystander noise levels.

The engines feature a cross-flow cylinder head with the intake and exhaust manifolds on opposite sides of the engine to ensure no pre-heating of the inlet air. This results in a combustion process that is more efficient as the inlet air is cooler. All three tractor models use a rotary-type fuel-injection pump.

The new Mudder tractors include three models, and are available in 2WD or 4WD versions as well as cab or open station (ROPS). Ground clearance under the front axle is 29.4 inches in the 2WD models, and 24.6 inches in the 4WD models.

Ground clearance under the drawbar is 27 in. in all models. Tire track widths can be adjusted depending on the crop's row spacing. The front and back track width ranges from 57 in. to 80 in. for row spacing between 28.7 in. and 40 in.

“The new C-Max Mudder models are ideal for applications such as spraying, cultivating, and light field work, where ground clearance reduces the amount of crop damage,” said Chad Huyser, marketing manager for McCormick USA.

Lower running costs are an additional benefit across the C-Max Mudder Series, as the Perkins 1100-Series engines promise more economical fuel use.

Transmission options

Customers can choose from three transmission options: 12+12, 24+12 with creep, and 24+12 with overdrive. All feature a dry-clutch synchronized shuttle to ensure easy operation of directional change. The shuttle lever incorporates a neutral position, ideal for operations that require periodic pauses. If the tractor is