

COMMERCIAL LAWN EQUIPMENT GUIDE



DISCOVER THE BEST COMMERCIAL LAWN EQUIPMENT ON THE MARKET



Service Autopilot™
by xplor

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

In this guide, you'll discover the [best commercial lawn equipment](#) on the market that leading professionals trust.

Plus, you'll explore the main things you should consider before selecting the commercial lawn equipment that's best for your business.



WHAT'S IN YOUR GUIDE

1. Best Commercial Lawn Care Trucks
2. Open Utility vs. Enclosed Cargo Trailers
3. Top Commercial Lawn Mowers
4. Additional Landscaping Equipment to Consider
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 - Hedge Trimmers
 - Leaf Blowers
5. Added Pest Control and Fertilization Services
 - Spreaders and Sprayers
6. Top Uniforms for Your Crew
 - Don't Forget PPE!
7. Equip Your Business With the #1 Lawn Care Software

PREPARE FOR THE BUSY SPRING SEASON

You should conduct annual equipment inspections at least two months prior to the start of the [busy spring season](#).

Keep in mind, the earlier you start, the sooner you can solve any potential problems.

Visual Inspections and Routine Maintenance

Conduct visual inspections of all equipment, such as trucks, trailers, and mowers.



In these inspections, you're looking for:

- Obvious signs of wear and tear that can affect performance and/or safety
- Any potential visual repairs to maintain a professional, clean appearance

Also, it's a good idea to have a professional mechanic or equipment dealer give everything a quick inspection during your routine maintenance before the busy season starts.

1. BEST COMMERCIAL LAWN CARE TRUCKS

Even though selecting the [best commercial lawn care truck](#) for your business vastly varies from choosing one for personal use, it's not as overly complex as you might imagine.

Here are a few basic factors to consider:

- Budget
- Maintenance
- MPG (i.e. miles per gallon)
- HP (i.e. horsepower) (e.g. hauling capability)
- Storage space (e.g. are you towing a trailer?)

New vs. Used Trucks

Take a look at a few pros and cons of new vs. used lawn care trucks:

NEW

	PROS	CONS
	Manufacturer's warranty	Higher upfront cost
	No pre-existing conditions	Quickly depreciates in value
	Easier to standardize fleets	Crews will immediately rough it up
	PROS	CONS
	Lower upfront cost	No manufacturer's warranty
	Slower depreciation in value	Possible pre-existing conditions
	Won't be as noticeable when crews rough it up	Limited options for standardizing fleet

USED

In order to make the best choice between a new vs. a used lawn care truck, it's important to heavily base your decision on budget. If your budget is limited, then a used truck is likely your best option.

However, a new truck is likely a great choice if you:

- Are eager to quickly grow
- Have ample wiggle room in your budget
- Value fleet standardization for streamlined maintenance, training and appearance

Additional Factors to Consider

Used Trucks

If you decide to go with used trucks, then consider having a trusted, professional mechanic do a thorough inspection before purchasing it.

Additionally, it's crucial to find out the truck's history.

For example, if it was previously used in a business, then it's probably not a good idea to purchase it since the truck has already been heavily used.

Multipurpose Trucks for Additional Services

If you're using your lawn care trucks for additional services, such as snow removal, then you'll need to purchase one with four-wheel drive and high horsepower.

Likewise, if you'll be using your trucks for commercial accounts or landscaping services, then you'll want to consider choosing a box truck to more easily haul larger, heavy-duty equipment.

The Top 5 Commercial Lawn Care Trucks for Your Business

Specs Overview	Ford Super Duty	Ford F-150 XL	Chevy Silverado	Dodge Ram	GMC Sierra
Base MSRP	\$43,970	\$33,695	\$36,300	\$37,410	\$37,200
MPG (≈ varies based on model)	≈ 14.1	≈ 20 city ≈ 26 hwy	≈ 15 city ≈ 20 hwy	≈ 17 city ≈ 23 hwy	≈ 20 city ≈ 23 hwy
HP Options	385 - 450	250 - 450	277 - 420	305 - 395	277 - 420
Torque Options	430 - 935	265 - 510	305 - 460	269 - 410	380 - 910
Bed Length Options	6.75 ft. - 8 ft.	5.5 ft. - 8 ft.	6.6 ft. - 8.2 ft.	6.36 ft.	5.8 ft. - 8.2 ft.
Bed Height	21.1 in	21.4 in.	22.4 in.	21.5 in.	21.1 in.
Max Towing Capacity	15,000 lbs.	5,000 lbs. - 8,000 lbs.	6,700 lbs. - 9,900 lbs.	12,750 lbs.	6,500 lbs. - 9,700 lbs.
Max Payload	4,430 lbs.	3,270 lbs	2,500 lbs.	2,320 lbs.	1,500 lbs. - 2,543 lbs.

The Top 3 Box Truck Options

When it comes to box trucks, there are an even wider variety of options than with general pickup trucks. This means your selection will heavily depend on your budget, hauling needs, nearby dealerships, and local market availability.

Take a look at a few of the best options on the market that commercial businesses swear by:

1. [Isuzu](#)
2. [Hino Motors](#)
3. [Freightliner](#)

2. OPEN UTILITY VS. ENCLOSED CARGO TRAILERS

If you decide to go with a pickup truck instead of a box truck, then you'll need to choose an open utility or enclosed cargo trailer.

To select the best option for your business, take these factors into consideration:

- Horsepower
- Fuel efficiency
- Maneuverability



Take a look at a few [pros and cons](#) of open utility vs enclosed trailers to help you decide on the best option for your business:

Open Utility Trailer

PROS	CONS
Cost effective	Less weather protection
Increased visibility	Challenging to prevent theft
No height restrictions	Premium customization costs
Versatility for outdoor services	
Lightweight delivers optimal fuel efficiency	
Decreased upfront cost	
PROS	CONS
Protects against the weather	Minimal visibility
Provides extra storage space	Height restrictions
Versatile customization options	Increased upfront costs
Offers additional security from theft	Less versatility for outdoor services
	Heavy weight decreases fuel efficiency

Enclosed

3. TOP COMMERCIAL LAWN MOWERS

Between the vast array of mowers and the countless brand loyalists, it's easy to get swept up into brand wars.



In order to choose between the [commercial lawn mower](#) that's best for your business, first consider:

- Budgeting needs
- New vs. used options
- Brands carried by local dealers

Keep in mind, you should only ever consider brands that are carried by your local dealers. Otherwise, you'll be wasting valuable resources in order to maintain your equipment.

Plus, selecting brands from your local dealers helps you to standardize your fleet and get better deals for purchasing equipment in bulk.

Additionally, you'll have to decide on:

- Cash or credit, new or used
- Pre-existing relationships with local dealers
- Your business' brand image for fleet standardization
- Access restrictions (e.g. make sure it fits in your trailer and backyard fences)

Take a look at some of the top commercial lawn mower options industry pros swear by:

Exmark

- [Stand-on](#)
- [Zero-turn](#)
- [Walk-behind](#)

Gravely

- [Electric](#)
- [Stand-on](#)
- [Zero-turn](#)
- [Walk-behind](#)

Husqvarna

- [Stand-on](#)
- [Zero-turn](#)
- [Walk-behind](#)

SCAG

- [Electric](#)
- [Stand-on](#)
- [Zero-turn](#)
- [Walk-behind](#)

Ferris

- [Stand-on](#)
- [Zero-turn](#)
- [Front-mount](#)
- [Walk-behind](#)

Hustler

- [Zero-turn](#)

John Deere

- [Zero-turn](#)

Toro

- [Stand-on](#)
- [Zero-turn](#)
- [Walk-behind](#)

Wright

- [Stand-on](#)
- [Zero-turn](#)
- [Walk-behind](#)

4. ADDITIONAL LANDSCAPING TOOLS TO CONSIDER

Much like we previously discussed about the primary deciding factors for commercial lawn mowers, the same concepts apply when selecting the right [landscaping tools](#).

Remember, it's important to take these factors into consideration when choosing a brand for landscaping equipment:

- Budgeting requirements
- Availability of locally trusted dealers
- Brand image for fleet standardization

Depending on your business' landscaping service offerings, you may need one or all of these tools.

Multi-Task Landscaping Tools

If you're offering a wide variety of landscaping services, then you might consider purchasing a multi-tasking tool instead of a dedicated hand tool.

Here are a few examples of multi-task attachments you can purchase:

- Saws
- [Edgers](#)
- Pruners
- Blowers
- [Trimmers](#)



In addition, these are the top two multi-task tools to choose between:

Specifications	Echo	Stihl
Model	PAS-2620	KM 131 R
MSRP	\$359.99	≈ \$449.99
Engine Displacement (i.e. CC)	25.4	36.3
Engine Power (i.e. BHP)	1.3	1.9
Fuel Capacity (i.e. fl. oz.)	20.6	24
Weight (i.e. lbs.)	9.9	9.7

Leaf Blowers

Specifications	Echo	Husqvarna	Redmax	Stihl
Model	PB-9010T	580BTS	EBZ8560-RH	BR 800 X MAGNUM
MSRP	\$629.99	\$639.99	\$649.99	≈ \$659.99
Blowing Force (i.e. N)	48	47	47	41
Weight (i.e. lbs.)	26.7	26.8	25.4	23.1
Engine Displacement (i.e. CC)	79.9	75.6	75.6	80.3
Cubic Feet Per Minute (i.e. CFM)	1,110	1,000	1,000	912

Leaf Blowers (cont.)

Specifications	Echo	Husqvarna	Redmax	Stihl
Model	<u>PB-9010T</u>	<u>580BTS</u>	<u>EBZ8560-RH</u>	<u>BR 800 X MAGNUM</u>
MPH	220	220	220	239
Horsepower (i.e. HP)	Not Provided By Manufacturer	4.59	4.59	4.4
Fuel Capacity (i.e. fl. oz.)	83.8	87.9	77.8	Not Provided By Manufacturer

Hedge Trimmers

Keep in mind, all of these hedge trimmers have smaller and larger blade options.

Specifications	Echo	Husqvarna	Stihl
Model	<u>HC-155</u>	<u>522HD60S</u>	<u>HS 82 T</u>
MSRP	\$419.99	\$579.99	≈ \$579.99
Cutting Speed(i.e. cut/min)	Not Provided By Manufacturer	4,400	5,100
Knife Length (i.e. in.)	24	24	24
Weight (i.e. lbs.)	11.5	11	11.2
Engine Displacement (i.e. CC)	21.2	21.7	22.7

Hedge Trimmers (cont.)

Specifications	Echo	Husqvarna	Stihl
Model	HC-155	522HD60S	HS 82 T
Horsepower (i.e. HP)	Not Provided By Manufacturer	0.8	0.94
Max RPM	Not Provided By Manufacturer	7,800	8,500
Idling RPM	Not Provided By Manufacturer	3,000	3,000
Fuel Capacity (i.e. fl. oz.)	16.9	15.2	15.6
Electrode Gap (i.e. in.)	Not Provided By Manufacturer	0.02	Not Provided By Manufacturer
Front Handle Vibration (i.e. M/S ²)	Not Provided By Manufacturer	2.8	Not Provided By Manufacturer
Rear Handle Vibration (i.e. M/S ²)	Not Provided By Manufacturer	2.5	Not Provided By Manufacturer

5. ADDED PEST CONTROL AND FERTILIZATION SERVICES

If you decide to [add pest control](#) and/or fertilization services to your lawn care business, then there are a few various spreaders and sprayers on the market to consider.

Skid Sprayers

Skid sprayers are mainly used for [pest](#) and weed control. Even though it's a premium investment, these can be [highly lucrative](#) for your business with big profits.

Take a look at a few top-of-the-line skid sprayer options:

	PROS	CONS
<u>Graham GSE Unit</u>	Customizable options	Premium upfront cost
	Durable, long-term investment	Bulky with little room left in the truck bed

	PROS	CONS
<u>NorthStar Skid Sprayer</u>	Economical upfront cost	Not customizable
	Compact with more room left in the truck bed	Limited options to choose from

	PROS	CONS
<u>Solutions Pest and Lawn</u>	Customizable options	Premium upfront cost
		Minimal room left in the truck bed

Spreaders

Whether you're applying fertilizer or other dry applications to the lawn, you'll need to select a reliable spreader.

The type of product you're spreading, distance, and terrain will all determine which is the best spreader option for your business.

- Fertilizer Spreader: [Tarter Tow Behind Fertilizer Spreader](#)
- Broadcast Spreader: [Scotts Elite Spreader](#)
- Tow Spreader: [Brinly Tow Spreader](#)
- Rotary Spreader: [Chapin Rotary Fertilizer Spreader](#)
- Liquid Spreader: [WorkHorse Sprayer](#)
- Multi-Use Spreader: [Earthway Spreader](#)

Mist Blowers

If you're interested in [adding pest control services](#) to your business, then these backpack mist blowers (i.e. sprayers) are a worthy investment.

Use these backpack sprayers to provide a variety of pest control services, such as a specific weed or bug infestation.

Depending on how you'll be using the sprayer will determine which one is right for your business.

For example, if you're treating a lawn for flying insects, such as mosquitoes, then you'll need to choose a backpack sprayer with a high spray range.

Also, consider purchasing a gas-powered blower, because they have a faster spray with a farther distance. Overall, these are more efficient than a manually-operated one.

These are a few of the best backpack mist blower options on the market:

Specifications	Solo	Stihl
Model	466	SR 450
MSRP	\$799.95	≈ \$799.99
Engine Displacement (i.e. CC)	66.5	63.3
Engine Power (i.e. BHP)	2.9	3.9
Chemical Tank Capacity (i.e. gallons)	3.7	3.7
Fuel Capacity (i.e. fl. oz.)	47.36	57.5
Weight (i.e. lbs.)	22	28.2

6. TOP UNIFORMS FOR YOUR CREW

The best [uniforms](#) for your crew help to establish:

- Noticeable brand recognition
- A unified, professional appearance
- Trust as successful lawn care pros



Remember, it's important to use a recognizable brand color and logo in your uniforms! This is the best way to spread local awareness of your brand to establish solid brand recognition.

While you might decide to make your crew pay for their uniforms, it's more ideal for the business to pay for them. In turn, you'll attract more great talent in the area.

Take a look at a few of the top uniforms on the market for your crew:

Logo Shirts, Button-Downs, Polos, and More

- [LogoUp](#)
- [Arborwear](#)
- [All Star Logo](#)
- [Lands' End Business](#)

Pants, Shorts, and Logo Overalls

- Arborwear
 - Men's
 - [Pants](#)
 - [Shorts](#)
 - Women's
 - [Pants](#)
 - [Shorts](#)
- [All Star Logo](#)
- [Lands' End Business](#)



Outerwear

Depending on your local climate and the services you offer, you might consider purchasing outerwear uniforms.

- [LogoUp](#)
- Arborwear
 - [Men's](#)
 - [Women's](#)
- [All Star Logo](#)
- [Lands' End Business](#)

Hats and Visors

- [LogoUp](#)
- [All Star Logo](#)
- [Lands' End Business](#)

Sunglasses

- [LogoUp](#)
- [Lands' End Business](#)

Uniform Rental Programs

Consider joining one of these uniform rental programs if you have the budget:

- [Cintas](#)
- [UniFirst](#)
- [Arborwear](#)



A great uniform rental program will clean and maintain your crew's uniforms and keep them on rotation.

While renting uniforms is a premium investment, it ensures your team always has clean, neat, professional uniforms at all times. Which means, no more worn-out uniforms!

Waterproof, Non-Slip Work Boots

- KEEN
 - [Men's](#)
 - [Women's](#)
- Timberland
 - [Men's](#)
 - [Women's](#)
- Wolverine
 - [Men's](#)
 - [Women's](#)



Don't Forget PPE!

As always, it's crucial to ensure you're providing your crews with the proper PPE (i.e. personal protection equipment).

Especially if you're offering fertilization, pest control, or weed management services, you'll need to provide PPE that's:

- [OSHA compliant](#)
- Adequate, unobstructed protection

Remember, all employers are [legally required](#) to provide and pay for PPE!

7. EQUIP YOUR BUSINESS WITH THE #1 LAWN CARE SOFTWARE

When you choose the all-in-one [#1 software solution for lawn care](#), you can immediately boost your business growth to establish long-term success.

With [Service Autopilot](#), you'll have the power to streamline everyday tasks with:

- Team tracking
- Instant invoicing
- [Automatically optimized routes](#)
- [Same-day automated payments](#)
- Rapid estimate creation on-the-go
- Accessible client accounts from anywhere
- Simplified, [automated marketing](#) campaigns
- Detailed business reports to find and fix profit holes

Begin to experience long-term, scalable growth and increase profits NOW using Service Autopilot.

[Take a free tour today!](#)

