

# Cub Cadet's Tank S rules the islands of Fargo, N.D.

It doesn't take much more than a winter thaw to get Tony Fennell, supervisor for the Fargo, N.D., Street Department, thinking about warmer weather and islands — the many islands within the city of Fargo, that is.

Fargo's islands — the grassy areas in and around the city — are the responsibility of the 39-employee street department, and keeping the green spaces mowed and maintained requires a dedicated group of employees and dependable equipment. Fortunately, Fargo has both.

As far as equipment, Cub Cadet's Tank S-series commercial zero-turn mowers play a vital role in grooming and maintaining Fargo's grassy areas. How effective have the Tank S mowers been? Just ask the mayor.

"When the mayor comes up to you and says, 'That's the way I want the islands to look,' you know you're doing a good job with them because they look like landscaped lawn," Fennell says. "We have a lot of islands in this town and a lot of boulevards joining them, and we mow them all. More with the Tank S [mowers] now."

The street department has three Cub Cadet commercial zero-turn mowers, as well as two other Cub Cadet models, in its arsenal. Fennell just purchased a 72-inch-cut Tank S, bringing the total number of Cub Cadet Tank S commercial zero-turn mowers to two, plus one 48-inch-cut Z Force S unit.

The Tank S series has been a welcome departure from other brands of mowers purchased by the department in the past. Those mowers, Fennell says, were expensive, and "every time we'd back over a curb, we'd break an axle."

The Cub Cadet line of commercial equipment, on the other hand, has been a game-changer. "The lack of trouble we've had with them — it's just been unbelievable. They're trouble-free," Fennell says. As far as maintenance goes for the Cub Cadet commercial mowers, "We stuck a lot of money into other machines, and we're just not doing that anymore," Fennell says. "A couple of air filters here and there, and that's it."

Based on Fennell's positive experience with the Cub Cadet commercial mowers, supervisors from the Fargo Park District and Recreation Division have ordered them, as well.

## Conquering slopes

The Cub Cadet Tank S commercial zero-turn lawn mower cuts up to 7.5 acres per hour. Forward and reverse foot pedals, as well as its fully hydraulic power steering, make the mower easy to use.

One of the features that Fennell appreciates most is the lawn mower's Synchro Steer technology, which provides intuitive zero-turn control with a steering wheel and dual foot-

pedal controls instead of lap bars. When the operator makes a true zero-turn on a Tank S, Synchro Steer synchronizes all four wheels based on direction and speed to improve traction, stability and user control.

For complete zero-radius turns, all four wheels work together, even moving at different speeds to eliminate turf damage and provide stability on slopes and hillsides. The Tank S's ability to conquer slopes was a big selling point for the Fargo Street Department, Fennell notes.

"We have a lot of railroad underpasses," Fennell says. "In fact, the gentleman who sold [the Tank S mowers] to us came by ... and he said, 'How did you get it at this angle?' [We told him], 'We just drove it this way. You said it was a slope mower.' And it really does do a heck of a slope."

Conventional lawn maintenance equipment often has lap bars for maneuvering. The Tank S features a steering wheel, instead. Fargo Street Department grounds crews welcome the Tank S's steering wheel for its ergonomic benefits, among other reasons.

"I had a gentlemen who worked for me two years ago who complained of carpal tunnel syndrome. And I guess it's not that uncommon," Fennell says. "These steering wheels are unbelievable, and everybody loves them."

In 2009, Cub Cadet added the option of a diesel or propane engine to the Tank S series. Although not opposed to diesel or liquid propane as fuel options, Fennell says the department purchased a gas model first. Employees liked it, were comfortable with it and decided not to change.

"On the fuel, it's been really good for that. It's not hard on fuel at all," Fennell says. "The Kawasaki engine is what we have, and it's great."

The Fargo Street Department has not purchased attachments for its Tank S mowers yet, but Fennell says he would not be opposed to checking out what is available.

In that regard, Tank S is now a machine for all seasons with Cub Cadet's introduction of a

line of winter commercial attachments for year-round productivity. The attachments work with Tank S Synchro Steer technology and steering wheel controls. The features allow for full directional control of the front wheels and blade, and effectively push snow in any direction. A cab enclosure, snow blade and rock salt spreader are available for the Tank S.

## Dealer support

On top of all of the features that the Tank S mowers offer, Fennell notes that the Garden Hut, the Cub Cadet dealer in Fargo, N.D., has provided consistent, reliable support. "The warranty, the service we get out of our local dealer here, has been just phenomenal," Fennell says. "I can't say enough about it. If I have a problem, I call and it's fixed immediately."

He adds that the Cub Cadet dealership stands by the unit's three-year limited warranty "100 percent." "I'm very, very pleased with them," he says.

Being able to test drive the mowers has been an advantage, Fennell says. Each summer, the local dealer has a Cub Cadet Day. The first time Fennell and his employees were invited, "I told one of my guys, 'Get on it and drive it like you stole it and let's see what happens.'"

Needless to say, they were impressed with the Cub Cadet commercial mowers — and still are. "No breakdowns, no problems, less expensive," Fennell says. "I can't say enough good things about the Cub Cadet."

