



# 2006 Pro Product Innovation Awards



## THE WINNERS

### Installation Products Category Winner: K2 Summit—The EZ-Set Multi Use Placing Tool

The **EZ-Set Multi-Use Placing Tool** is pioneering a new way to place large items on landscaping job sites. Employing a patent-pending clamping mechanism that shifts the weight burden from underneath to the side: the EZ-Set Tool eliminates the need for lifting straps, shovels, crowbars, two-by-fours and numerous laborers for lifting and placing materials.

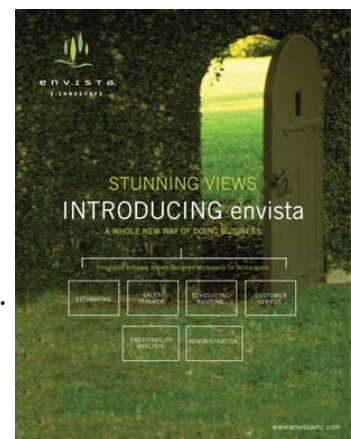


Less effort, less man-power, less risk and more placement accuracy are what this tool is all about. In fact, this revolutionary tool has been proven to reduce both labor costs and man-hours-per-job by over 75%. With its different, interchangeable lifting plates, it's like getting five tools for the cost of one. Available in 1,000 lb. or 3,000 lb. capacity; the patent pending scissor frames accommodate all offered specialized lifting plates so you can customize this tool to fit your needs. Plates currently available: straight lifting plates, pipe and timber lifting plates, paver band lifting plates and boulder plates. [the-ez-set.com](http://the-ez-set.com)

### Business & Software Products Category Winner: Envista, Inc.

Envista **e-landscaping software** is an integrated, web-based management system designed specifically for landscapers. envista contains several integrated modules, including estimating, sales tracking, scheduling/routing, customer service, profitability analysis and administration. All information is accessed via the web, so that all employees can have a truly mobile office, with access to real-time information. Not only does this keep all employees on the same page, but it also provides the freedom and flexibility landscapers need in today's competitive marketplace to improve efficiencies and increase profitability.

For example, a landscaper can work up an estimate on a project in his truck. He can then submit it, complete with detailed photos and plant information, to the client—all from the customer's driveway. In the same way, a manager can easily track the progress of all projects, re-route crews due to weather, check billing status and more, all by accessing a secure web page. [envistainc.com](http://envistainc.com)



### Debris-handling products Category Winner: Shindaiwa, Inc.

The **EB8510RT backpack blower**, with 79.7 cc overhead cam engine cranking out 4.5 horsepower, is the most powerful backpack blower in its class.

At the business end of its special 65 mm tube nozzle, the machine delivers wind velocities up to 224 mph, and maximum airflow is 762 CFM. The EB8510RT blower features a



special “hush mode” for noise-sensitive areas. And fuel economy is improved; approximately 1 hour run time per 2-liter tank of gas, the best performance per liter in a large backpack blower.

Even with all its brawn, though, the EB8510RT is a compact machine. It’s a 2-valve, overhead cam design that reduces engine height and makes the whole machine low-profile and sleek, which cuts down on snagging when working in tight, brushy areas. Other refinements include a 2-stage, side-mount, vertical-pleat air filter that self-cleans and opens for element change via thumbscrew. [shindaiwa.com](http://shindaiwa.com)

### Handheld Products Category Winner: Shindaiwa, Inc.

At 44.6cc, 2.9 HP (2.2 kW) engine and only 9.9 lbs (4.5kg) dry weight the **446s chain saw** is a full-on commercial unit intended for professional use. The 446s features fully-machined die cast crankcase and chain tension screw at 45 degree angle allows fast easy adjustment. The chain saw’s dual-post inertia chain brake system features a snag resistant design and a sure start recoil system for fast, easy starting. Other Features:



- 44.6cc, 2.9 HP (2.2 kW) engine, and only 9.9 lbs (4.5kg) dry weight
- Rigid construction: 446s features fully-machined die cast crankcase
- Closed ported, chrome-plated designed cylinder for durability and high performance
- Chain tension screw at 45 degree angle allows fast easy adjustment
- Single thumbscrew access to air filter and spark plug with no tools required
- Dual post inertia chain brake system features snag resistant design
- Easy-to-start recoil system for fast and effortless starts

[shindaiwa.com](http://shindaiwa.com)

### Irrigation Products Category Winner: Hunter Industries

Designed as an add-on to any existing Hunter controller equipped with a SmartPort®, and the new ACC controller, the **ET System** responds to climate changes by continually calculating the optimum landscape irrigation program. The ET System uses evapotranspiration data collected on site to create an intelligent irrigation program for each watering day to replenish the plants’ moisture. Both water and energy conservation are maximized because the unit operates off actual conditions at the irrigated site and is not reliant on data from miles away. Other benefits:



- No recurring fees or subscriptions for weather data.
- Will suspend irrigation during rain, freezing, or high wind conditions based on its own sensor data
- No external AC power wiring
- Installing an ET System can typically result in a water bill savings of up to 30% over a well-managed conventional irrigation system

[HunterIndustries.com](http://HunterIndustries.com)

### Miscellaneous Products Category Winner: Woods Equipment

The **Groundbreaker-X BH6000** offers extra quality engineered into every design feature. Benefits include:

- The BH600’s innovative boom reaches over obstacles with better visibility and much less repositioning than a straight boom. In addition, its large dipper cylinders offer up to 2,000 pounds of digging force



- It saves time with easy attach/detach leaving you more time for the work at hand with its 3-point hitch or Woods' unique easy on/easy off mounting system, the backhoe can be attached or detached in about three minutes – no tools required
- The BH6000 backhoe offers extra capacity – three bucket sizes are available with greater capacity than any competitor on the market. Choose from an 8” trenching bucket, a 12” all-purpose bucket, or a maximum capacity 16” bucket

[WoodsEquipment.com](http://WoodsEquipment.com)

### Mowers Category Winner: Ferris Industries

The IS® 2000Z series features four-wheel suspension. The deck of the mower works in conjunction with the suspension system to hug the contours of the terrain, leaving a consistent manicured finish.

Its patented system virtually eliminates shock to the chassis, resulting in superior operator comfort, increased mowing speeds, maximum productivity, stability and mower life. Model options include a 61-inch double-top 10-gauge deck with 25-hp Kawasaki or 27-hp Kohler gasoline engine options. The drive train features high-capacity, fan-cooled hydraulic pumps and large-displacement wheel motors to ensure long-term reliability.



Additional features of the IS 2000Z series include:

- Standard Roll Over Protection System
- Easy-to-use deck lift makes adjusting cutting height quick and simple
- Flexible discharge chute
- Comfortable operator environment
- Twin styled 6 gallon fuel tanks (12 gal. total) with integrated cup holder and storage compartment

[FerrisIndustries.com](http://FerrisIndustries.com)

### Shop & Service Equipment Category Winner: Ballard, Inc.

**Super Jack H.D.** uses heavier gauge steel and strengthened arms that hold the mower to increase the safeness.

With pneumatic tires, the Super Jack H.D. can be used on any terrain on site or in the shop. It also offers low retail cost, and a one-year warranty.

Use of the Super Jack H.D. is as simple as hooking the 2 arms to the mower deck, pulling down the handle, and pushing out on the foot peg. When the mower is up you have 24 inches of safe clearance to change the blades and service the underside of the deck.

Safety is the key issue and the Super Jack H.D. is a necessity for any serious lawncare professional. [ballard-inc.com](http://ballard-inc.com)



### Skid Steers Category Winner: Toro Co.

The **trench filler attachment** allows operators to fill trenches in a single pass. Developed for use with the Dingo® compact utility loader, the trench filler is equipped with two sets of opposing augers that direct the spoils from the sides of the trench back into the hole. The attachment then levels off the work area as it continues to push material forward, quickly and effectively filling the trench.



The trench filler allows fast and easy trench cover-up with minimal cleanup afterward. The attachment can cover a trench faster than a machine can dig one, replacing slower, more traditional methods of filling with a shovel or rake. It also is less intrusive to landscaping than a bucket or blade. [toro.com](http://toro.com)

### Snow Removal Products Category Winner: Snow Dragon

The **SND900 MiniPro** model ice melter offers landscapers and contractors an opportunity to take advantage of cost savings with a small, mobile melter.



The Snow Dragon™ SND900 MiniPro Model is fabricated on a tri-axle trailer that allows for easy mobility from one location to another with a one-ton truck. It is designed for use at strip malls, schools and parking lots and is rated at economically melting 75 cubic yards of snow per hour.

Features include, easy start-up and shutdown procedures, plug and play components, one-man operation capabilities, built-in lighting system, heated operating enclosure, and quiet operation. While trucking and hauling snow has been the typical procedure for snow removal, Snow Dragon™ snowmelters save time – 50% to 60% when compared to hauling. [SnowDragonMelters.com](http://SnowDragonMelters.com)

### Sprayers, Spreaders & Seeders Category Winner: Turfco Manufacturing

In the **TriWave™ 60 overseeder**, Turfco® has developed a new breed overseeder that can significantly increase the success of overseeding operations, especially on contoured terrain. The TriWave 60 features three patent-pending technological advancements that address golf course superintendents' need for improved seed germination, while creating minimal disruption to existing turf.



Optimized 1 ½-inch blade spacing creates closer slits for greater seed density. When combined with the 18-inch wide patent-pending floating heads, which move independently to precisely follow ground contour, the TriWave 60 is capable of seeding low spots without destroying high areas or unmarked items such as sprinkler heads. To minimize damage to existing turf, Turfco developed patent-pending WaveBlade technology which utilizes powered, counter-rotating blades to create optimum clean slits for improved seed-to-soil contact with minimal turf disruption. [turfco.com](http://turfco.com)

## The Judges

**Jeff Pozniak** is the owner and administrator for the Ground Trades Xchange ([GroundTradesXchange.com](http://GroundTradesXchange.com)), a discussion forum website for the landscaping industry, where he draws on his 20 years of experience in the field. He is also responsible for daily management of Stonehenge Brick Paving & Landscaping, Inc. landscaping company in Neenah, WI.

**Jeff Stokes** is President of Arbormasters Tree and Landscape located in Shawnee Mission, KS. The company is a full service tree, plant care, landscape and maintenance firm focused on serving both residential and commercial markets. Jeff holds a business degree from Kansas University.

**Mac Cheever**, landscape coordinator for Rock Valley College, a 220-acre community college in Rockford, IL, has enjoyed just about every aspect of the plant business from retail and wholesale sales to installation and maintenance. He has operated and maintained a large variety of related equipment.

**Mark Lay** founded AA Tex-Lawn Company in 1980. He is now co-owner with his brother Cory. AA Tex-Lawn is a full-service commercial landscape maintenance contractor, residential design build firm operating in the greater Charlotte, NC, area. The AA Tex-lawn mission is: "To be and do our Best!"

**J. Lee Buffington** founded Turf Tamer, Inc. in 1995 in Fort Payne, AL. Turf Tamer is a full-service landscape company that operates in Northern Alabama and Northwest Georgia. Today, the million-dollar operation has 22 full-time employees and uses a variety of equipment brands and vehicles.