

PROFESSIONAL USE: PUSH BLOWER OR BACKPACK BLOWER? THE ANSWER IS BOTH!



A top of the line 6 hp push blower has the velocity of three backpack blowers.



This top of the line backpack blower is perfect for stadium stands and tight spaces

The question of whether to own and use a push blower or a backpack blower is debated at power equipment dealerships and landscape firms nationwide. This is a worthy discussion as the opinion and the resulting decision on which to buy and use will affect the success of the professional user. Each of these options has an important place in the landscapers' equipment inventory. Push blowers and backpack blowers each serve a purpose that clearly shows both types of blowers are needed if the professional landscaper is going to obtain the optimum production for his time which will yield the best profits.

In the United States the push blower is a well-accepted and utilized power equipment tool in the Eastern 1/3 of the country. To a great degree this is because of the number of deciduous trees and the fact that a large number of professional landscapers and homeowners use this type of blower. On the East Coast the push blower is considered by many, homeowners as well as professionals, to be as necessary as a lawnmower or snow thrower. The push blower is selected due to its ease of use and its very high production rate. Using a push blower provides the quickest way to move leaves and debris off of a property. This is particularly true if the leaves are wet or deep or cover a large area. Any combination of these three conditions would make a push blower the optimum choice. The backpack blower is accepted because of its ease of use, portability and utility. The backpack blower is used in areas of tight space constraints, stairways or flowerbeds.

While push blowers are a staple on the east coast of the United States, landscapers anywhere in North America who experience the productivity of a push blower will soon move as much of their debris moving work as possible to the push blower because of the time they save.

Lets look at an example of a landscape job that illustrates the need and value of both push and backpack blowers. A landscaper seeks and receives the contract to clean a high school football stadium after the Friday night football game. To clean the stands, the landscaper's crew use backpack blowers to blow debris to the field. Once the debris is on the field, the crew uses a push blower to move the debris to the central collection spot for removal. Why not use the back blower for the whole job? Time and labor costs are the answer. As the debris piles get thicker it is much more time consuming to try and use a backpack blower. This is

because the force and size of the air stream is not as great as a push blower and blowback of thick debris is harder to handle with a backpack blower.

In general it would take three of the most powerful backpack blowers to equal the force of a 6 horsepower push blower. First-rate push blower prices range from \$600 – \$1,200 U.S. depending on size. For this example, the Little Wonder 9600 High Output Blower costs about \$640 U.S. Top of the line backpack blowers sell between \$450 and \$500 U.S. As you can see the equipment cost of enough backpack blowers (3) to approach the velocity of one small 6 hp push blower would be \$1,350 for the three backpacks (based on lesser priced units) vs. \$640 for the one push blower. This cost difference, not to mention the additional operators required to run the two additional backpack blowers required to equal the force of the single push blower, would make the push blower the more cost effective choice in this scenario.

When you purchase a push blower, what features and benefits should you consider?

Pneumatic Tires – easy to move over curbs and easier to control over wet or soft turf surfaces.

Welded Housing – one that seals edges of housing front and rear – provides stronger airflow and a more durable unit.

Air Discharge to Side and Front (a quick and easy change mechanism) - side discharge is the most efficient and powerful but sometimes it is better for the air discharge to come out of/from the front when the user must clean a narrow area.

Swivel Wheel Kit (option) - less operator fatigue if using for several hours at a time.

Manufacturers Warranty – Particularly as related to the blower impeller.

Good dealer support.

When you purchase a backpack blower, what features and benefits should you consider?

Locking Air Tubes – better control and less down time putting tube back on the unit.

Hand Controls for Throttle – easy adjustment of blower speed while operating unit.

Comfortable Frame – operator comfort and reduces fatigue.

Balance - good operator control and comfort.

Manufacturers Warranty.

Good dealer support.

When it comes to blowers, whether they are backpack or walk-behind models, the bottom line is, examine the job your undertaking and be sure to have the right equipment available for the job. You need to be sure that any unit you choose is of professional quality, created with the professional landscaper in mind. Designed for years of heavy-duty use. The right equipment should reflect the right price based on usage, quality, manufacturers warranty and dealer support.

To find out more about Mantis and Little Wonder products or to find the nearest dealer; contact David Navroth, Director of Sales, toll-free at 1-877-596-6337 or visit the Little Wonder website at www.littlewonder.com