2021 EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE SURVEY
Landscape contractors rely on their equipment to keep them in business. That’s why it’s so important to make sure that each piece is running smoothly at the start of the season and replace older machines with newer models as necessary. We asked our readers for their insights on how they make new equipment purchases and maintain the pieces of equipment already in use.

More than half (68%) of our respondents were focused on landscape and lawn care as their specialties, with slightly more covering residential customers than commercial. A majority of respondents (51%-69%) generally purchased one of each category per year, if they made equipment purchases.

A quarter of contractors (26%) budget $2,500 or less each year for new equipment, with another 23% setting aside between $2,501-$5,000. Almost one-fifth of contractors (19%) budget between $10,001-$25,000 annually. When buying new equipment, 88% of respondents almost always go to authorized dealers directly. Big box stores only pulled 6% of contractors for equipment purchases.

In choosing the right piece of new equipment, 95% of respondents said that reliability was a very important factor in consideration. Quality was close behind with 92% of contractors. Beyond those points, three-quarters of respondents (76%) prioritize ease of use in equipment.

Contractors tend to be diligent with regular maintenance checks on equipment, with a total of 71% performing them daily or weekly. Another 18% run checks every month, with the rest taking on a little more risk with quarterly or seasonal checks. About one-third of respondents (33%) have a dedicated mechanic on staff.
This survey was developed in SurveyMonkey with two email invitations including individual, anonymous links sent to respondents between April 1 and April 9. Survey results were closed April 9 with 262 respondents. Irrigation & Green Industry staff analyzed the survey results.