

## Makita launch 30 new landscape products



Earlier this week, in the grounds of Walton Hall in Warwickshire, BALI Registered Affiliate member [Makita](#) launched a wide range of new kit for landscape professionals.

Significantly, the 30 new models at the event were all electric, powered by batteries. In his opening speech, Mark Earles, Business Development Manager, stressed the potential for battery-powered equipment in the future, and indicated continued investment in the technology by Makita.

270 Makita tools ranging from drills to vacuum cleaners, mitre saws to coffee machines and of course the full range of outdoor power equipment are compatible with the same 18 volt lithium ion battery system which includes batteries ranging from 3.0Ah to 6.0Ah and associated charging equipment.

Together with advanced battery technology, brushless motors (a development from traditional brushed motors) has allowed Makita to introduce battery-powered equipment requiring less maintenance, more torque, less weight and less susceptible to over-heating – exactly what the landscape professional demands!

A review of Makita's website reveals that, whilst petrol-powered machines are still available, there is now a battery-powered equivalent for nearly every single product category. The event celebrated the introduction or update of the following equipment:

### Mowers

A range of battery-powered lawnmowers are now available in the Makita range, depending on the user and their requirements. 3 mowers are available with steel decks, ranging in cutting width from 460mm (DLM462) to 534mm (DLM532), with or without self-propulsion. For added durability and resistance to corrosion, the DLM533 is available with both an aluminium deck offering a cutting width of 534mm, mulching and self-propulsion. Other features available throughout the range are side-discharge grass ejection, a quiet mode for use when mowing in particularly sensitive areas, large grass collection boxes and generous warranty periods.

All mowers rely on Makita's 18-volt LXT batteries. In place of an engine is a large compartment with room for 4 batteries. 2 batteries power the units at any one time, with a simple switch allowing power to be drawn from either bank of batteries as they run out. Run-time obviously varies on many factors; the battery used, terrain, length of grass and dampness, but varies from 30 minutes to 50 minutes. Whilst this might not sound an awful lot of time, it's worth bearing in mind even the most powerful batteries in the range can be charged in just 55 minutes. Therefore, assuming a power supply can be found for charging, battery life is unlikely to be an issue.

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### Hedge trimmer

4 hedge trimmers were launched at the event: 2 single-sided traditional models and 2 long-reach 'pole' models.

The single-sided models are of particular interest. These models feature a cover over one half of the blade, which is a safety feature demanded by many BALI-NCF contractors who believe this reduces the number of accidents involving hedge trimmers.

The weight, vibration and noise advantages offered by battery-powered equipment was particularly noticeable in these products, which rely on a single 18-volt battery from the LXT range.

### Brush cutter and Line trimmer

A line trimmer and brush cutter are now available in the cordless range. Aimed at professional users, both units are powered by 2 x 18-volt LXT batteries giving a power output of 1.0kW, which is roughly 1.4 hp in old money.

Both units feature a battery and motor where a 2-stroke engine was previously found, although the familiar trigger-style switch to control the speed of the head remains, used in conjunction with a 'cow horn' style handlebar or 'D' loop. Both units also feature 3 speed options in addition to 'automatic torque drive technology' (ADT), which automatically adjusts the speed of the head according to density of vegetation, and 'active feedback sensing technology' (AFT) which protects the user in the event that a large object is stuck during operation.

As with the hedge trimmers, the use of batteries in these units has resulted in very impressive reductions in weight, vibration and noise figures.

### Blower

Powered by 2 x 18-volt LXT batteries, the DUB363 blower can be converted from a blower to a vacuum very quickly. As well as depositing debris in a large, 50 litre dust bag attached to the unit, an impeller in the unit also shreds material.

Although the shape, size and control associated with the unit will be familiar to those used to petrol-powered machines, the battery-powered units boast reduced weight and vibration figures.

### Battery pack

For users wishing to further extend the working time of their equipment, Makita launched a backpack capable of holding up to 4 x 18v LXT batteries. The backpack features a 'dummy' battery which fits in the battery slot of all hand-held equipment, connects via a long wire to the pack and provides significantly longer run times. Both single and twin battery adapters are available, meaning the unit is compatible with all types of Makita portable equipment.

### Other equipment

Makita took the opportunity to demonstrate other kit in their range which is either new or has recently undergone revision:

- Battery-powered pressure washer

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