

3033 & 3150

Schaffer
Loaders

Two Schaffers better than one for growing trees

At Keith and Kerry Parnell's tree nursery at Tincurrin in Western Australia's eastern Wheatbelt region, a Schaffer 3033 mini digger proved so successful they added a second Schaffer mini digger to their fleet.



"The Schaffer 3033 is one of the best things I have bought for the nursery – it's fantastic," Keith says.

Schaffer loaders, which range in power from 26hp to 177hp, provide superior performance under all conditions and really excel in tight spots where their articulated agility is an asset.

"Other loaders tested were either too wide for the confined nursery spaces or too small and light to perform the required tasks. A skid steer machine was not suitable because it damages the ground, unlike the Schaffer mini digger," Keith says.

The Parnells backed their enthusiasm for their original Schaffer by purchasing a second Schaffer mini digger in 2009, this time the top-selling 3150.

The nursery has a capacity of up to three million seedlings including oil mallee, a tree that can produce energy for sustainable development while reducing soil salinity. The seedlings are propagated in a greenhouse, then transported into cell trays as they mature. They are moved around the nursery on racks, capable of holding up to 70,000 seedlings.

Before acquiring their first Schaffer 3033 mini digger in 2005, the Parnells used a tractor with a rear-mounted forklift to take the trays to the edge of the nursery. However, the tractor was too wide to take the trays down the aisles, so they had to be carried by hand.

Keith and Kerry's Schaffer 3033 mini digger, which is only 1.4 metres wide, proved compact enough to transport the trays down the 1.6m aisles, helping to reduce labour costs and speed up the work. Keith says special racks were built that can carry 72 trays at a time, enabling the mini digger to take the place of at least two staff.

TEC SPEC

Engine

Kubota D17403 - 36hp

Speed

Single speed, 15km/hr

Wheels and tyres

31x15.5-15

Total width

1400mm

Bucket pivot point

2950mm

ROPS

Fold-down ROPS with canopy