

## Apex Curb & Turf, LLC

John Larson, owner and operator of Apex Curb and Turf at 1280 Fair Street in Clarkston can tell you all about the hydro seeder that he built himself. In 1994 John built his first 500 gallon hydro seeder, by 1996 he had built a 3,000 gallon hydro seeder, he specializes in commercial work and did a 46 mile stretch of highway between Lenore and Kamiah. His hydro seeders have only gotten bigger and better. In 2000 he built and began producing 4,000-gallon stainless tanks. He is currently shipping these tanks from Hawaii to Florida. The hydro seeders are sold to high-end clientele and Apex is looking to explore the export market.



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What makes the Apex hydro seeder better? John's design doubled the size of the engine to 185-horse power; this compared to his biggest competitor whose engine is only 115-horse power. This engine will out produce two of the competitors as it has twin turrets or cannons. Unlike the lawn machines that use a fire hose to spray the seed, the larger tanks have the cannons mounted right on the truck. He can spray 4,150 gallons in less than four minutes or one state certified acre in four minutes. This means he can spray 50,000 gallons per hour. One of John's largest jobs was the Topanga Fire Restoration Project in California. He also did restoration spraying on the Pomeroy School Fire. The seeds used in this process vary greatly and are dictated by the job. Apex has special blends for erosion control, dry land seed and their lawn seed is 100% certified weed free.

John has expansion plans. In the last 6 months he began using precision parts produced by a CNC high definition plasma machine. This insures that all the parts for his production are exactly the same. John works with other local manufacturers to produce as many parts locally as possible. Currently John is producing six hydro seeders per year. They are mounted on trucks locally and cost from \$105,000 to \$110,000 each. John would tell you that he has difficulty finding good workers. He trains employees in-house, if he can find people with a mechanical aptitude and a good work ethic.

Apex has 12 employees with four on the manufacturing side. John graduated from Montana State University as a Mechanical Engineer and has been involved in the manufacturing business for many years. He has designed and manufactured many other products. If you would like to know more about Apex and their outstanding machines check out their web site at: [www.apexcurbandturf.com](http://www.apexcurbandturf.com).