

# 100hp range topper

Compact tractor firm TYM is squaring up to the big boys and the 1003 model is its first 100hp tractor for the agricultural sector. UK contributor Geoff Ashcroft took to the controls to find out more.

Images by Geoff Ashcroft





**T**ong Yang Moolsan (TYM) is based in South Korea and has been selling sub-70hp tractors to amenity and grounds-care operators for the last 10 years.

But the recent arrival of a 100hp range-topper combined with a change of importer has put the Korean maker's emphasis firmly on joining the agricultural sector. And models up to 130hp could soon be available.

Until more powerful TYM models arrive, the 1003 takes top honours in a range that extends from 27hp to 100hp. It is not a high-spec tractor, but more of a mid-specification platform dressed in a sharply-raked, almost aggressive bonnet that gives it a look unlike any other on the market, with its two pairs of headlights peering from the grille.

Bosch electro-hydraulic hitch controls and a simple push-button electronic headland management system that offers automated control of key functions are elements most operators will appreciate.

The "turn up" function isn't an instruction to roll up your trouser legs, but one that automatically lifts the rear linkage when a tight steering lock is summoned. Similarly, "back up" lifts the implement when reverse is engaged.



**Four-wheel drive TYM 1003 packs 100hp from its Perkins 1100 series engine**

And PTO control can be brought into this equation too – all of which add up to useful savings in time and effort when it comes to field work.

All you need do is press the required buttons on the control console to select the function you need. Four-wheel drive, four-wheel drive auto and diff-lock functions are there too, all at the touch of a button.

TYM has equipped the 1003 with mechanical spool valves. There are three fitted as standard – a fourth is optional – and all are cable-controlled using levers in the cab, which will be welcomed by operators who prefer a traditional DIY approach to tractor repairs.

At the business end, a Cat II rear linkage offers a modest 3110kg lift capacity at the ball ends and a three-speed PTO – 540, 750 and 1000rpm – should suit most requirements. The PTO shaft is six-spline only.

Power comes from a venerable Perkins 1104 turbocharged four-cylinder engine that uses direct fuel injection and mechanical control – all that's needed to meet current emissions regulations in this power category, says the firm.

Engine noise is fairly well-insulated from the cab, though the exhaust can sound boomy at mid revs, but there the note settles to a calm buzz once the throttle is open wide.



## FARM TRADER

*says*

The TYM 1003 is part of a range that extends from 27hp up to 100hp. It is not a high-spec tractor, but more of a mid-specification platform dressed in a sharply raked, almost aggressive bonnet that gives it a look unlike any other on the market with its two pairs of headlights peering from the grille.

A 32x32 transmission uses four speeds in four ranges, with a two-speed electro-hydraulic split on the side of the main gear lever that allows you to thumb up and down on each half gear. The split is lazy, but smooth once it makes the shift.

The main gear lever does need a long arm to chase ratios around the gate, while the range lever is tucked away alongside the seat, making changes much more of an effort when selecting creep, low, medium or high range.

TYM's powershuttle lever is, however, what you would expect and affords smooth take up of drive in both directions. Cleverly, the system won't let you start off in either third or fourth gear in High range, nor will it engage drive if you haven't chosen a gear – and it will beep at you as a reminder that you're not doing things in the right order.

Cab interior is bright and roomy, but lacks storage space



Right-hand console carries Bosch hydraulic linkage controls, loader joystick, hand throttle, buttons for headland management and mechanical spool valve levers



It's not the only warning noise the tractor emits – a rather raucous beeper swings into action each time you select reverse and this may be something that many operators will eventually find a way of suppressing.

The 1003's cab is roomy. Large doors make it relatively easy to access the cab from both sides, though the gear and loader levers could challenge the more rotund operator if using the right-hand door.

Instrumentation is clear, with traditional dials for engine revs and travel speed flanked by coolant and fuel gauges. Light-coloured materials ensure the interior is bright and the use of a six-post cab design affords opening rear side windows for those who don't like an air-conditioned environment.

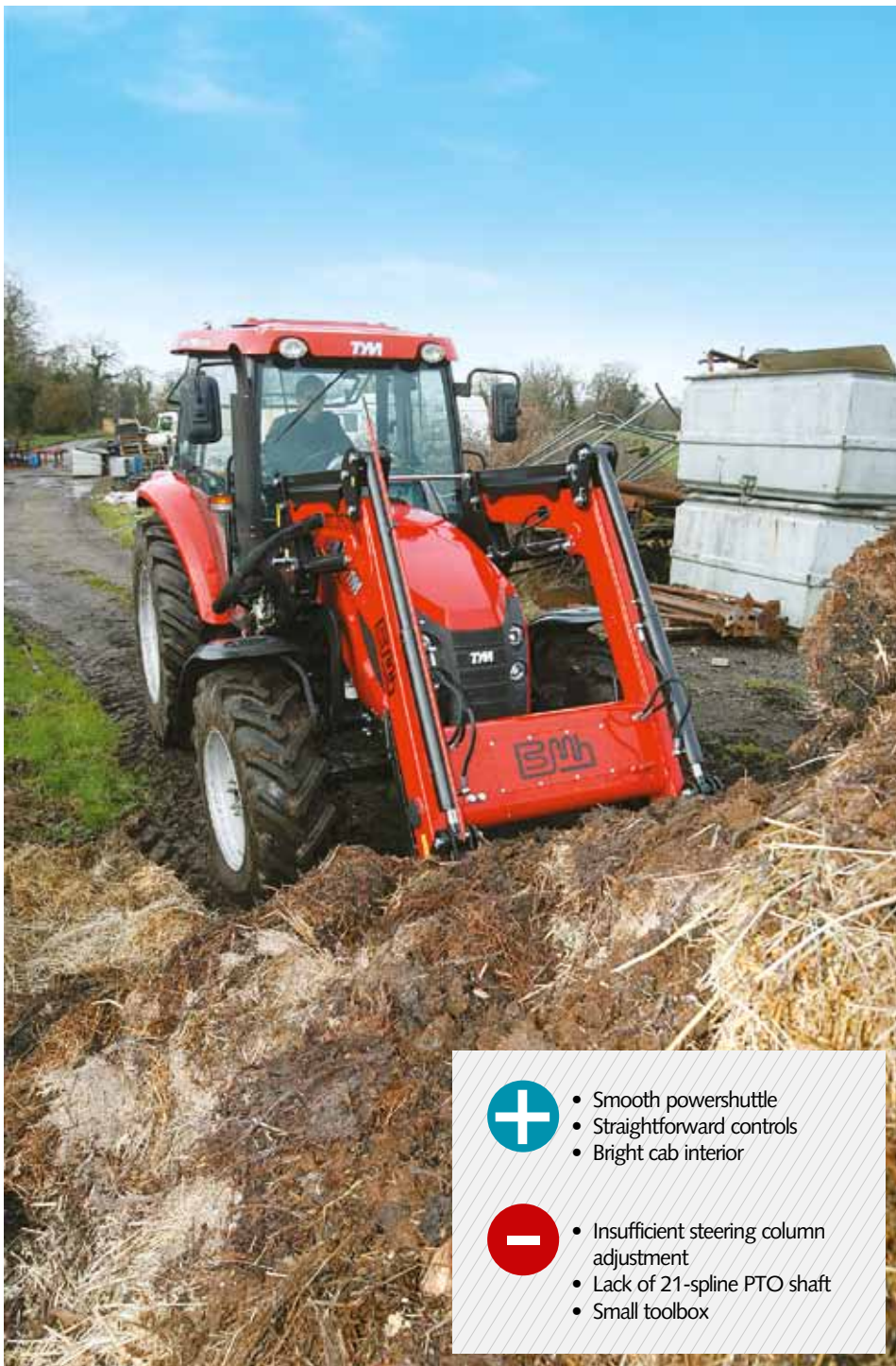
But if you're looking for useful storage, the TYM 1003 simply doesn't have it. A mediocre-sized, flimsy plastic box behind the seat is all you're going to get, in addition to a multi-compartment lidded box on the left-hand inner wing that might hold a couple of shear bolts.

Roof-mounted radio and heater controls do eat into the headroom at the front of the cab, and the lack of a roof window to help with loader work does hamper its performance. That said, our demo tractor was equipped with an SC350 loader with parallel lift, extending its versatility as an all-rounder.

Operating it was not a problem – you just need to be aware that the bucket soon passes your line of sight as you raise the loader and you'll need to lean forward in the seat when placing loads at full height.

However, a lack of movement on the steering wheel – it has adjustment for rake, but not reach – means this is a cab that suits those with shorter legs. Bringing the seat forward puts the steering wheel closer to hand, but the driving position then becomes cramped.

It is early days in the agricultural sector for the South Korean maker but TYM's 1003 is a good example of a well-priced 100hp tractor in an already busy marketplace. ■



- Smooth powershuttle
- Straightforward controls
- Bright cab interior



- Insufficient steering column adjustment
- Lack of 21-spline PTO shaft
- Small toolbox

### Specifications

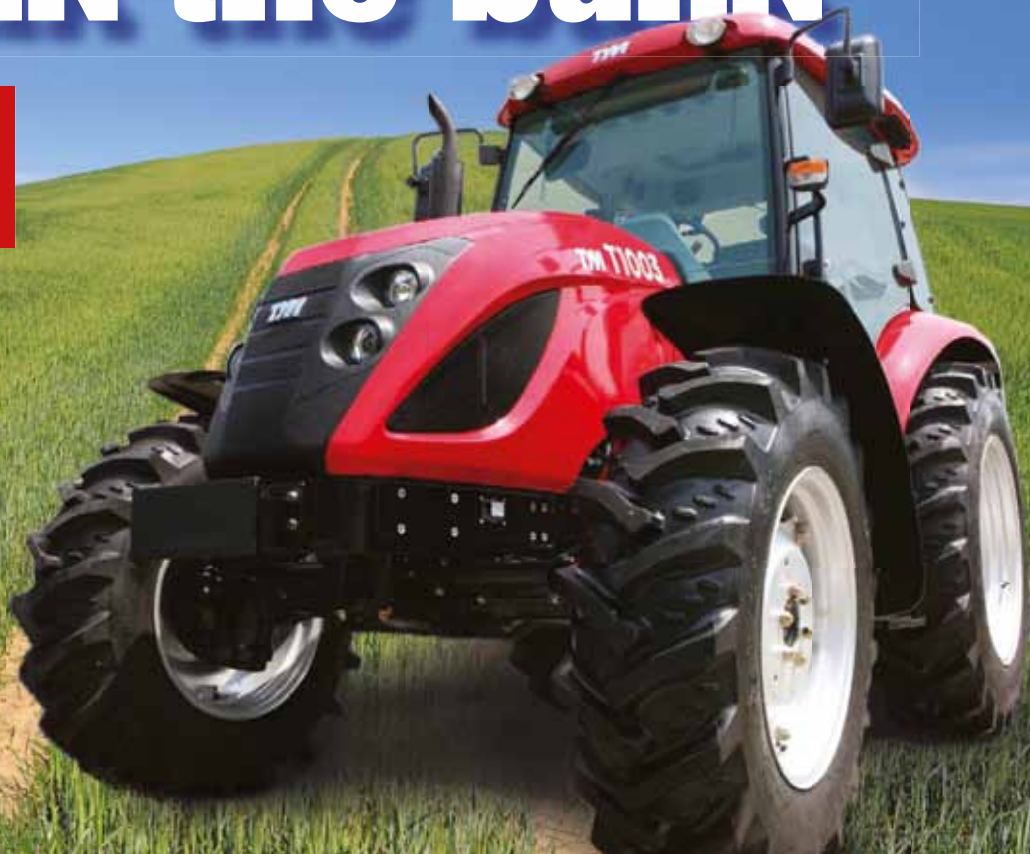
#### TYM 1300

Engine	Perkins 1104 turbo, 100hp
Transmission	32x32 with powershuttle
Hydraulic system	Dual gear pump, 61L/min
Rear lift capacity	3110kg
PTO	540, 750 and 1000rpm
Service intervals	50 hours, then every 300 hours

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