

Flower business blooms with Schaffer 3033S mini digger

Neil and Sonia Reid grow cut flowers for the florist trade in Oakford, a southern suburb of Perth.

In March 2005 they became Australia's first Schaffer customer when they purchased a 3033S articulated mini digger to ease their daily workload.



Their nursery, NS Flowers, specialises in roses, gerberas and gypsophylia. The roses and gerberas are produced in heated plastic tunnel houses, while other flowers are raised in shade houses.

The Reids needed a mini digger to take the hard work out of moving bags of fertiliser and potting mix, as well as shovelling coal into the hopper to heat the nursery and removing the ashes.

Neil explains: "I borrowed my father-in-law's machine initially, a front end loader on a tractor. But I needed a narrower machine to use in the nursery. Our central path is only 1.6m wide. We don't want a wide path because we would lose growing area."

Schaffer owners NS Flowers

Industry type Horticulture

Location Oakford, Perth, Western Australia

Model 3033S mini digger

Accessories Forks, jib, GP bucket

Usage Moving fertiliser and potting mix, shovelling coal for heating nursery, general earthworks

Requirement A mini digger capable of negotiating tight nursery aisles with the strength to lift and carry with ease



Schaffer Loaders soon arranged for a demonstration of their 3033S mini digger at the nursery, and it didn't take Neil and Sonia long to decide.

"We've been very happy with it," Neil says. "It's compact and manoeuvrable, with good power and lifting capacity. We've set the machine's width at 1400mm. The width can be varied, depending on the wheels and tyres."

Neil says the Schaffer 3033S mini digger is very strong and well built with good hydraulics and a Kubota engine. "All of the controls can be used with one hand," he adds.

All Schaffer loaders are engineered and built in Germany, steeped in the tradition of engineering excellence that produces Mercedes-Benz and BMW.

TEC SPEC

Engine

Kubota V1505T - 45hp

Speed

Single speed, 15km/hr

Wheels and tyres

31x15.5-15

Total width

1400mm

Bucket pivot point

2950mm

ROPS

Fold-down ROPS