



pink by Shibaura success

In a word

MAKE: Shibaura

MODEL: SX24 HST ROPS

PRICE: from \$16,500 + gst

BEST FEATURES: Ian says the SX24 is reliable, highly manoeuvrable, and it's a rare thing to see someone filling the fuel tank.

MORE DETAILS: www.jinon.com.au/Shibaura or Seville Tractors (03) 5964 4649

The Matthews bought their first Shibaura tractor in 2006 from Seville Tractors.

"We looked at a range of tractors and we chose the Shibaura because

they are quality-built with good engines, and very well-suited to our needs," Ian said.

After a successful trial year with the first SX24, they bought a second one last year and a third this year.

"We are very happy with the choice," Ian said. "We've had no problems at all with them. They are very reliable."

Each tractor hauls three trailers full of plants, a total weight of only 800kg, which Ian said was well under the towing capacity of the tractor.

"Seville Tractors measured up our trailers and modified each tractor with a small bull bar and tow bar. We don't use a three-point-linkage or a mower deck with them," he said. The tractors are also used with a

200-litre Quik-spray sprayer.

Ian said the Shibauras were highly manoeuvrable with a tight turning circle.

"They are safe to operate and easy to drive with the big, fat turf tyres," he said. "We have around 15 to 20 different operators. Just about everyone in the nursery will hop on them from time to time and it's no problem training someone to drive them safely."

"We get quite a few mornings below zero around here and the SX24s start first time every time. The fuel tank is 29.5 litres and they are extremely economical."

The three-cylinder, water-cooled Shibaura diesel engine meets Tier II emission requirements. The tractor has hydrostatic power

steering and optional cruise control. Forward and reverse speed selection for the hydrostatic transmission is through the two foot pedals.

Matthew Giordano, of Seville Tractors, said the SX24 was popular with nurseries and similar styles of business.

"They're a good compact tractor and they go very well," Matthew said. "They're not bulky, and the best thing about them is the quality. They're Japanese designed and manufactured, and that means you're buying a good quality tractor with built-in safety features."

Ian said the flat step-through platform made it much safer to get on and off the tractor. "Our operators are constantly

stopping and starting, climbing on and off the vehicle every 15 or 20 metres, so not having to climb over a gearbox and levers is great," he said. "The four-wheel-drive gives us better control and better braking capacity on the slopes, and the wet rear disc brakes give excellent stopping power."

Potentflora's eye for quality and their commitment to a program of continual improvement has been recognised nationally.

The wholesaler nursery is a three-time winner of the Australian Garden Industry Award for Best Large Production Nursery in Australia, and this year became a member of the Nursery and Garden Industry of Australia's Hall of Fame.