MAINTENANCE

Achieving the chore for half the labor

BY TERRY BUCHEN

One day I was thinking to myself: "How can we get the appearance of the single-striping effect of a walk-behind greensmower while using a triplex greensmower?"

We had a Toro Greensmaster 3000, purchased in the late 1980s. It had individual reel shut-offs on the outer two reels. We ordered a third reel shut-off for the center reel and installed it by talking with the local distributor, who said it was okay to have all three reels with individual on/off capabilities.

The next step was to call the factory and ask if the center reel could be kept in the "Up" position with the use of bungie chords, while not damaging the up/down hydraulic system. The factory said it was okay because, when the center reel is in the "Up" position, the hydraulic system by-passes the hydraulic system. Having the center reel in the "Up" position obviously helped avoid confusing the operator for the next step.

We began mowing greens using only the two outer reels. The striping pattern was identical to using a walk-behind mower, though it takes a good operator to mow the unmowed area between the mowed stripes.

In essence, we doubled our mowing capacity compared to using a walk-behind unit. The only major difference was the triplex obviously has a flotation head versus a fixed-reel unit on the walk-behind mower.

Doing the victory lap using the two outer reels, both clockwise and counterclockwise, will give the walk-behind appearance as well.

But if you've ever used ammonium sulfate in its pure form or in a blend, you know it can be a messy situation.

Fortunately, now there's Country Club® 16-4-8. A homogeneous fertilizer that offers the benefits of ammonium sulfate in a spreadable, easy-to-use, easy-to-use blend.

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By using 16-4-8 on your course, you'll not only reduce incidence of patch disease, you'll control your budget. Because with 16-4-8, you can manage your use of costly fungicides.

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