

Toro introduces Groundsmaster maintenance kits

MINNEAPOLIS — The Toro Co. has introduced a line of maintenance kits for its Groundsmaster 200 and 300 series rotary mowers that provide filters; blade and belts; spindle assemblies; and caster wheels.

The kits, now available through distributors nationwide, promise to minimize equipment downtime, simplify the ordering process for parts, and help customers anticipate what parts

they will need to keep their equipment in top condition.

The cost savings of the kits are estimated at 10 to 25 percent compared to suggested retail of parts when purchased separately. Also, all parts are Toro engineered and specified, assuring quality and compatibility not always guaranteed through willfitters, according to Toro's Parts Marketing Manager Michael Fisher.

Toro Commercial achieves full ISO status

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. — The Toro Company has achieved ISO 9000 certification for its commercial business and a component parts manufacturing facility. In 1995, Toro became the first full-line irrigation and commercial equipment manufacturer to obtain the ISO 9000 designation.

Toro's commercial business

here obtained the ISO 9001 certification for its quality management systems functions including design, purchasing, sales and research and development. The distinction was awarded by Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance Ltd., a world leader in the provision of independent accredited assessments.

Toro's component parts manufacturing facility in Shakopee, Minn., is also now certified to the ISO 9002 standard. The plant supplies parts for both commercial and consumer products that are assembled at other Toro facilities.

ISO 9000 is a formalized set of quality definitions and standards developed by the International Organization for Standardization. A certified company has identified and documented processes that address all elements of the ISO 9000 standard that its facility or operation is pursuing. Once certification is achieved, the company is audited every six months to assure continued compliance.

Biologicals at EPA

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bial behavior can be controlled under laboratory conditions, their long-term environmental effects are not known.

"We're working with EcoSoils in good faith," she said, "but we can't wait forever. If they do not expedite the approval process we would have to remove the system from the market."

The Bioject Bioreactor automatically dispenses starter cultures of microbes (inoculum) and their required food sources (media) into a fermentation chamber where the microbes grow into high population numbers. Once the desired volume is achieved, the inoculum-laden slurry is spread over the course via the existing irrigation system.

The system is currently in place at some 200 courses, including Chicago's North Shore Country Club in Glenview, Ill., and Congressional Country Club outside Washington, D.C.

At least two developments have made practical implementations possible: University researchers are developing in the labs particular strains of bacteria which have shown to be effective inhibitors of turfgrass pathogens and there is now a technology on the market which can grow these microbes and deliver them to the targeted areas in sufficient volume that will ensure their ability to colonize grass soils and crowns. Overcoming the technological limitations has been critical to this trend because microbes have a short life cycle in open-air environments.

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