Experts' Ideas on Equipment Conditioning

There is no chance to cheat in checking up each detail of equipment overhauling during the winter points out the Worthington Mower company. They state: "You will appreciate that from experience of overhauling and repairing units sent to our shops it is readily apparent which equipment has received the proper care and attention, and that which has not. The quantity of renewal parts required make an interesting comparative cost list. "It has become an impressive fact, that through failure to instruct the operators, an annual repair expense, immense in the aggregate, is now wasted by the golf clubs of the country, that could be entirely avoided if those in authority would see to it that their grass cutting apparatus is properly looked after and that the men in charge are taught how to take care of it and how it should be run."

During off-season, Worthington says careful inspection of the gears and bearings should be made so that worn parts can be renewed. Bad knife steels may have to be replaced and the fly knife reel reground. It is wise to remove all gears and bearings; and wash them to remove any accumulation of dust and grit. All parts which may have worked loose during the season's operations should be tightened.

Roseman's Recommendations.

Following the usual custom of good greenkeepers and a systematic plan to reduce maintenance expense by keeping their mowing equipment in perfect condition, Roseman Tractor Mower company recommends the following practice:

Immediately after the mowing season closes, all mowers, tractors and other implements should be placed in orderly arrangement in an isolated part of the barn or near a repair shop. After removing all dirt and rust by scraping, brushing and washing with kerosene, the good mechanic will proceed to inspect the condition of each and every piece of equipment.

Each hand mower will be dis-assembled
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as far as is necessary to inspect every working part. All grease and oil will be removed that the bearings and gears may be inspected, relitted and replaced as the condition requires. Bed knives or bottom knives will then be re-dressed or new ones ordered and reels sharpened. Each and every mower will be given a complete overhaul by the mechanic during the winter months, and each mower will then be painted so that the equipment will be in perfect shape for use when the season opens.

Fairway mowers will be scraped, washed, brushed and soaked in kerosene, after which they will receive the same close inspection given hand mowers. Owners of Roseman mowers will be called upon to replace but very few parts, for the reason that they are built of non-breakable material. The reels may need sharpening, and it may be necessary to replace the bed knives, but all working parts should be washed thoroughly with gasoline or kerosene and the oil pockets cleaned out to insure perfect lubrication next season. These mowers should then be rebuilt and re-painted that they will be in as good condition as new ones.

The wheels of all tractors should be removed, the bearings examined, the grease removed and new grease applied. Motors should be drained and washed with a mixture of kerosene and gasoline. The timer, all wiring, the battery and radiator, and in fact, every part of the chassis should be given a thorough inspection, after which worn parts will be replaced. The radiator should be flushed out with a hose, additional grease placed in the rear axle housing, all grease cups refilled twice and screwed down, rear wheels inspected to see that the spokes are tight and the
wheels keyed tight to the axles. Additional acid should be placed in the battery, and on old style tractors the greenkeeper will find it advisable to install a new timer and the necessary wiring for the timer, which costs but very little. The fan should be thoroughly greased and the fan belt tightened. If the tractors are to stand in a cold barn, all water should be drained from the radiator and motor. This can be done only by operating the motor as the water is being released. The bottom of the carburetor should be removed to allow the dirt and sediment to wash out, and the sediment bulb on the bottom of the gas tank should be washed by allowing at least one pint of gasoline to run through it.

All rakes, shovels, hoes, hose, brooms, spades, sprinklers and other small tools and equipment shall be inspected, renovated, oiled or greased, and repainted to assure of their being in perfect condition for the new season.

Spike rollers shall be cleaned of all dirt, and plain rollers cleaned and oiled to prevent rust.

Compost mixers, scrapers, top-dressing spreaders, tee buckets and stands, benches, and, in fact, all golf course equipment will be completely rejuvenated and placed in perfect condition by the good greenkeeper in a systematic manner that the entire plant will be ready for operation before spring arrives. This requires conscientious and painstaking effort on the part of

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the greenkeeper or his first assistant to not only paint but repair in good workmanship manner absolutely every tool and piece of equipment on his course while it is not possible to work on the golf course. The greenkeeper who does this saves his club many hundreds of dollars each year, or can save for his club at least $500.00 each season.

Toro's Suggestion
Winter overhauling practice for Toro equipment as suggested by M. R. McLaren, Toro's Service Manager, follows:

"If best results are to be secured during the operating season all Toro equipment should be thoroughly overhauled and cleaned during the closed winter season.

"Tractor motors should be disassembled, carbon cleaned, valves ground, bearings taken up, piston rings replaced, magneto cleaned and retimed, and carburetors overhauled and adjusted properly.

"Transmission case should be flushed out, cleaned thoroughly and refilled with fresh lubricant; radiator should be drained and cleaned with a soapy solution and all dirt, dead grass, and accumulations should be brushed from radiator core.

"The entire tractor should be repainted, and new transfers put on, which the Toro company will be glad to supply at no cost.

"Mowers should be disassembled, thoroughly cleaned out with gasoline, all worn parts should be replaced, the mowers reground, reels trued up, reassembled and repainted.

"Miscellaneous equipment such as dump wagons, compost machines and top dressers should be cleaned thoroughly and repainted with a good grade of weather-resisting paint."

Go Slow Ideal's Advice
IDEAL Power Lawn Mower company says: Most clubs realize the importance of having their mowers ready for use at the start of the grass cutting season and recondition them during the winter months. The following brief instructions are intended for golf clubs that do this work themselves instead of having it done by some outside concern:

"To recondition the cutting units of fairway mowers, it is necessary that all of the working parts be inspected so as to
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determine their condition. The Ideal
'Bull Dog' cutting unit is of the low
wheeled type with simple pinion and pawl
drive, and the few moving parts are easy
to disassemble and reassemble.

"Remove the drive wheels and the side
frames; clean the bearings, pinions and
the inside of the drive wheels using kero-
sene or gasoline for this purpose. Be
sure all of the old grease or hard oil is re-
moved. If any parts should show exces-
sive wear, they should be replaced with
new parts to insure against the possibility
of having equipment laid up during the
summer months. Then pack the bearings
in hard oil or cup grease and reassemble
the unit. Where a grinding machine is
available it is easy to sharpen both the re-
volving cutter and the bottom knife, com-
plete instructions being furnished by the
manufacturer of the grinder. If a grind-
ing machine is not available and the re-
volving cutter is in fairly good condition,
it may be sharpened as follows: Remove
the high spots with a file, filing the blade
on a bevel so that the back of the blade
will have ample clearance. Next, make
the necessary adjustments. Be sure to ad-
just the revolving cutter first, and then
the bottom knife.

"The knives may now be brought to a
keen edge by lapping them in with a paste
made of emery dust and oil. Spread a
small quantity of this paste evenly along
the edge of the bottom knife. Remove the
wheels and change the pinions, putting
the left hand pinion on the right hand
side, and the right hand pinion on the left
hand side. Replace the wheels. The
blades can now be turned backward, either
by turning the wheel by hand or pushing
the mower backward on the floor. After
this has been done, be sure to place the
pinions in their original positions, wipe
off the excess emery and oil, and read-
just the revolving cutter. It is advisable
to put plenty of oil on the cutting edges
to prevent them from rusting during the
time they are not in use.

"It is very seldom that the frame will
be in need of repair. However, it is ad-
visable to see that the push arms and the
other parts which attach the unit to the
frame are not worn to the extent that they
will allow the cutting unit to run out of
alignment when the outfit is in operation.
Of course, all bearings on the frame
should be oiled before the mower is
stored for the winter.

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