

Give Thot to Your Equipment

Midwest president reminds greenkeepers of the importance of taking care of golf course machinery. Neglect means waste of money

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John MacGregor

SINCE the subject of golf course maintenance is, at the present time receiving more attention than it has heretofore, I believe it will be well for me to remind my fellow greenkeepers at this time, that there is one branch of our profession which has been given very little thought. That is the care of golf course equipment.

First comes machinery, which includes tractors, fairway, green, tee, and power mowers, compost mixers, compost screens, compost distributors, seeders, wagons, spraying outfits, etc. You should treat this equipment

as something of great importance.

There should be an understanding in general, that when a machine does not operate properly, something is materially wrong and the cause most usually is an accident, or else the operator does not fully understand the working of this particular machine. When anything does break it should not be repaired with a piece of wire, but should be inspected by some one who understands machinery, and will if necessary, secure the parts to repair it from the manufacturer.

Teach the Operator What To Do

THE most important point is to teach the operator what he should personally do to keep the machine he operates in proper working order, as there are a great many who need much instruction, and who do not appreciate the value of proper care in the operation of the particular machine. I want to impress, on every one concerned, that the operators of machinery be given a thorough understanding of their responsibilities, making very clear to them the importance of lubrication. When they have finished for the day (especially cutting grass) the hose should be turned on the machines to free them from grit and grass. All bolts and nuts should be gone over every day and tightened where necessary. Such instructions usually come with machinery, and should be followed more closely.

When the equipment has been taken into the barn at the end of the season, work should be started immediately

on the overhauling. The tractor should be the first to receive attention, the work to be done depending on the age of the machine. If the tractor has been in use for only one season all that is usually necessary is cleaning out the carbon, grinding the valves and going over the bolts and nuts on the chassis and body. All of the grease cups should be taken out and cleaned ready to be filled before operation.

Put New Rings in Tractor

IF THE tractor is two years old or more, it is possible that you have had trouble during the season with fouled spark plugs, which is usually an indication of leaky piston rings. The best way to remedy this trouble is to take the old rings out and replace them with new ones a little oversize. Then the connection rod bearings may need taking up. There may also be worn knuckles on the steering gear that may need replacing. If you are not familiar with this work it will pay you to spend a few hours in a garage once in a while. After that you will be surprised at what you can accomplish on your tractors.

Next comes the mowing equipment. Every unit should be taken apart and thoroughly cleaned. The cleaning can be done with kerosene and an old brush. Then all of the bearings must be examined as they frequently show a great deal of wear. If so, they should be replaced, as it is impossible to set a mower properly with loose bearings. You may find worn gears, but when replacing never put a new gear with a worn one as the old gear will wear out the new one in a very short time.

Order Parts in Duplicate

WHEN ordering parts from the factory always order two of each kind, then you will be prepared for an emergency. It is nearly always necessary to replace

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the bottom knives to start the season. The reels have to be ground at this time and those who have a lawn mower grinder are very fortunate, as the grinding is of short duration. Those who have no grinder must resort to ginding with emery, which is a laborious task, unless they send their units out to be overhauled. This should be avoided if possible as it means an added expense that can be eliminated.

There are probably a good many who do not know that by grinding the reels too frequently they are shortening the life of the mower. The grinding during the overhauling is all they require. It is only necessary to have an even surface so that the bottom knife touches at all points, and during the cutting season, the reel should be set so that it just touches the bottom knife, not tight as this causes undue friction and wears the reel. The green, tee, and power mowers should all receive the same treatment, if inexperienced at this work it is well to mark parts or lay them in such a position that you may put them in their proper place when assembling.

Taking Inventory An Annual Occurrence

WHEN taking inventory, which should be an annual occurrence, it is very easy to check up on your tools making notes on replacements and new equipment. Then when making up your budget for the year these notes will aid you wonderfully.

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Every greenkeeper should be able to take care of his equipment thereby reducing his budget materially.

All of the machinery should receive a coat of paint, in fact every piece of equipment, including the tools, as it prolongs their life, and removes that dilapidated appearance, which everything gets after it has been in service any length of time. If these methods are strictly adhered to by all especially those who have not given this very particular branch of the profession the care it most decidedly deserves will find a most decided reduction in their maintenance budget, which the Chairman of the Greens will not fail to see and appreciate.

Tournament Schedule

- June 25-30**—Ohio Golf Association, Amateur State Championship, **Youngstown Country Club**, John Morley Greenkeeper.
- June 25-30**—Trans-Mississippi Golf Association Amateur Championship at the **Wakonda C. C.**, Des Moines.
- June 27-30**—Western Golf Association Open Championship, **North Shore Golf Club**, Chicago, Richard Schoof, Greenkeeper.
- July 2-3**—Pennsylvania Golf Association Open Championship at the **Oakmont Country Club**, Emile Loeffler, Greenkeeper.
- July 4-6**—Annual Fourth of July tournament at **Del Monte**.
- July 6-7**—New York State Golf Association Open Championship, **Onondaga Golf and Country Club**, Syracuse, N. Y., Jack Welsh, Pro-Greenkeeper.
- July 10-11**—Annual Invitation Open Tournament at the **Shawnee Country Club**, Shawnee-on-Delaware, Pa.
- July 18-20**—Metropolitan Open Championship, **Shackamaxon C. C.**, Westfield, N. J.
- July 26-28**—Annual Buckwood Trophy Tournament at the **Shawnee C. C.**, **Shawnee-on-Delaware, Pa.**
- July 31-Aug. 5**—Public Links Championship, **Cobbs Creek Course**, Philadelphia, Daniel Flaherty, Greenkeeper.
- Aug. 15-18**—Buffalo District Amateur Championship, **Cherry Hills Country Club**, Charles Behm, Greenkeeper.
- August 27-Sept. 1**—Western Golf Association Amateur Championship, **Bob O'Link Golf Club**, Chicago, Ben Freberg, Greenkeeper.
- August 30-31**—Walker Cup Matches, **Chicago Golf Club**, Wheaton, Ill., John MacGregor, Greenkeeper.
- September 10-15**—National Amateur Championship, **Brae Burn C. C.**, West Newton, Mass., John Shanahan, Greenkeeper.
- September 24-29**—Women's National Championship, **Virginia Hot Springs Golf and C. C.**, Virginia Hot Springs, Va.
- October 5-6**—Lesley Cup Matches, **Winged Foot Golf Club**, Mamaroneck, N. Y., John Elliffee, Greenkeeper.

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