

**USGA**

**Equipment: Speaking The Same Language**

By Pat Gross, Western Region Agronomist

Nothing can be more frustrating than having to make due with old, run-down equipment. Frequent breakdowns destroy efficiency and increase expenditures for parts and repairs. The lack of dependable equipment also causes the appearance and playing quality of golf course to suffer. It is easy for superintendents to see the need for new equipment, but green committees or boards of directors often find it difficult to justify such large expenditures for a "lawn mower." Maybe the problem is you're not speaking the same language.

Most members of the green committee or board of directors are businessmen, not turf managers. They may have trouble relating to your triplex putting green mower that is 10 years old and has 5,000 hours on it. But if you were to compare turf equipment to an automobile, you may get a more favorable response. Consider the following statistics offered by Bud White from a 1986 article in

the Green Section Record:

- In general, the average operating condition and engine RPM's for turf equipment is the equivalent of traveling 60 miles per hour in a car.
- Take the example of a triplex putting green mower that is used two hours a day, six days a week, 52 weeks a year for a total of 624 hours. Using the 60 miles per hour figure, that equates to 37,440 miles per year. Five years of operation would total 187,200 miles and in ten years the mower will have traveled the equivalent of 374,400 miles!
- As another example, a large fairway mower typically runs seven hours a day, five days a week, 52 weeks a year for a total of 1,820 hours per year. Again using the 60 miles per hour figure, that equates to 109,200 miles in a year and 546,000 miles in five years.

As you can see the impact of comparing the turf equipment to an automobile can be quite dramatic. It is also an important first step in demonstrating the need for a regular equipment replacement program. A well-planned program improves maintenance efficiency, enhances course conditions, and reduces the cost for parts and repairs. An annual expenditure of 10% of the maintenance budget is a good starting point for yearly equipment purchases. Deferring such purchases doesn't make the need go away. You can expect prices to gradually rise and the cost of repairs to increase while you are waiting to purchase new equipment.

It is frustrating to have requests for new equipment turned down by those who hold the purse strings. Hopefully, using these examples to justify new equipment purchases will meet with nods of agreement instead of a look of bewilderment. ✍

**Superintendent/Pro Results**

**Low Pro Gross**

1st	Patrick Mount	69
2nd	Gary Young	70
3rd	Tyler Jones	71

**Low Supt. Gross**

1st	Scott Lewis	72
2nd	Jeff Roberts	73
3rd	David Hayes	74

**Low Supt. Net**

1st	Roger Robarge	61
2nd	Jeff Hardy	65
3rd	Jess Pifferini	66

**Low Affiliate Net**

1st	G. Beck	73
2nd	Don Naumann	74
3rd	Paul Thiltgen	76

**Low Supt/Pro Team**

1st	Robarge/Doss	55
2nd	Gibson/Hansen	60
3rd	Pifferini/Bruno	62

**Oops!**

Correction on the Scott Szydoski story in Naumann's NorCal News . . . Scott is Superintendent/Director of Grounds for Westin Resorts (not Western Resorts), American Golf runs the Westin Mission Hills resort courses — north and south. Mission Hills CC is owned and operated by Club Corp. of America. They have 3 courses — the Arnold Palmer, Pete Dye, and the Dinah Shore.



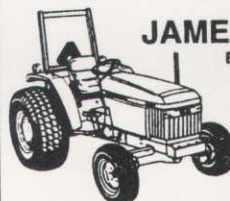
**Tom Jackson  
Don Naumann  
Ron Seibel**

510 Salmar Avenue • Campbell, CA 95008  
(408) 374-4700 • (800) 827-TURF • Fax (408) 374-4773

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