

# Golf Course Maintenance Equipment

By Lee Record, Agronomist

**T**O meet the demands of present-day golf course maintenance, the most modern and up-to-date equipment is needed. Maintenance equipment alone will not be the answer at every course; administration, programming, adequate budgets, manpower, responsibility and a host of other elements will be necessary.

The following suggested list may not be adequate at many golf courses, depending upon the degree of maintenance. This list should, however, be adequate for the majority of 18-hole courses.

## *Greens And Tees*

- 6 to 8 putting green mowers
- 2 power aerators
- 1 vertical mower
- 1 power drag mat
- 1 power topdresser
- 1 power thatcher
- 1 power spiker
- 1 power sprayer (fungicides)
- 1 proportioner
- 2 rotary fertilizer spreaders
- 2 triplex mowers

## *Fairways And Roughs*

- 2 to 7 gang hydraulic tractors and mowers
- 1 fairway aerator
- 1 fairway thatcher
- 1 fairway sweeper
- 1 power sprayer (herbicides)
- 1 rotary fertilizer spreader
- 1 5-gang mower (roughs)
- 1 3-gang roller

## *General Equipment*

- 1 or 2 dump body golf tractors
- 2 general construction PTO tractors
- 1 jeep, pickup truck, etc.
- 1 dump truck (5 ton min.)
- 1 snow plow

- 1 front end loader and backhoe
- 1 power sod cutter
- 1 power saw
- 1 power stump cutter
- 1 power soil shredder
- 1 powered hand sweeper
- 2 powered leaf blowers
- 1 water ballast roller
- 6 rotary trimmer mowers
- 3 hand trimmer mowers
- 2 general purpose power reel mowers
- 2 or 3 gas powered runabouts

## *Miscellaneous Hand Equipment*

(This list will go from A to Z.) axes, burners, crow bar, duster, cup cutter, wheelbarrow, ladder, sod edgers, sod lifters, shovels, rakes, funnels, spade, picks, forks, jacks, pruners, tree saws, traps (animal), pumps, gas cans, scales, pullers, hose, bamboo poles, soil testers, soil probe.

## *Tools For Repair Of:*

All power equipment (trucks, tractors, mowers, etc.), plumbing, drains, electrical equipment, sewers, roadways, cement and concrete, water systems, painting and wood working repairs, etc.

## *Shop Equipment*

Lapping machine, air compressor, steam cleaner, table saw, bench grinders, bed knife grinder, reel knife grinder, pipe threader, paint sprayer, welder, drill press, vises, arbor press, work benches.

## *Irrigation Equipment*

Pumping station and number of heads will be determined by the superintendent at each individual course.

This suggested list has only touched a few of the many odds and ends and pieces of equipment needed. If we may have omitted the one piece of equipment which you feel is necessary, by all means add it to the list.

A maintenance building should meet the following requirements:

1. Superintendent's office (desk, file cabinets, adding machine, etc.)
2. Toilet facilities (showers, lockers, etc.)
3. Adequate heating and ventilation
4. Paint spraying room
5. Herbicide-fungicide, etc., storage room
6. Fertilizer storage area
7. Adequate storage area for all equipment.
8. Adequate maintenance area.

Also in conjunction with the main maintenance building, an additional storage building is essential for the storing and mixing of topdressing material. Topdressing should be kept in a dry area so that it will be available at any time of the season. A two-year supply should be stored at all times.

If we have the necessary equipment and maintenance building, how many men will be required to keep the equipment rolling for the necessary turf maintenance? We suggest the following personnel be considered for the average 18-hole golf course in the North-east.

- 1 Superintendent (year round employment)
- 1 Assistant Superintendent or Foreman (year round employment)
- 1 Mechanic (year round employment)
- 2 Laborers (year round employment)
- 3 Laborers to be hired at the beginning of the outside maintenance program to be carried through until fall maintenance is completed.
- 3 Laborers to be hired as summer help

11 men total.

Regardless of the maintenance building and modern equipment the work load cannot be carried out unless an adequate work force is available; a work force that can be depended on, day in and day out; men with responsibility to themselves, to the golf course they are working for and to the equipment they are handling.

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