

Removing guesswork from spraying system selection

Matching the correct equipment to the needs of their course is of vital importance. This month we look at spray tanks.

If you don't know where you're going, any road will take you there.

The above is a common business adage often used to make managers aware of the need to seek out all the available information before deciding on a course of action.

It is therefore vitally important, when considering the purchase of a replacement or additional spraying system, to be aware of the many options available so that whatever choice is made, the decision will have been reached on knowledge rather than 'experience' or guesswork.

To help you decide which combination of application equipment best matches your particular needs this guide reviews the different tank options. At the same time as deciding the choice of equipment, don't forget the skill levels of your staff who will ultimately use the



equipment; much of the new equipment available will require extra training on its use.

The first consideration will be tank size in relation to the size and nature of the course.

What is the intended function of the sprayer and the likely intensity of use? There is little point in selecting a 1500 litre trailer sprayer if the course is small with narrow fairways and steep sided greens and tees. Conversely, a tractor mounted 300 litre sprayer would be a waste of money if it is the only machine available for spraying a large course with "motorway" fairways.

The second consideration is the materials from which the tank is constructed (see table). Common tank-construction materials

include moulded plastics, fibreglass, heavy-gauge steel and stainless steel. Whatever the material, the overriding consideration must be that it should resist corrosion from the materials applied.

New tanks introduced into the

Amenity market have been designed to minimise leftover spray mix, tanks such as these reduce chemical waste and disposal problems. Some manufacturers have also introduced a built-in sump that also helps with disposal. The tank must also have a drain plug at its lowest point, preferably operated by a valve located on the top of the tank.

Finally, the tanks should be clearly marked with graduated level indicator or have a sight gauge (visible from the operator's position) to provide the operator with a constant visual of the tank levels.

Fig. 1 Amenity sprayers: Tank materials and their characteristics

Consideration	Polypropylene	Fibreglass	Stainless Steel
Corrosion-proof	Yes	Yes	Yes
Repairable	Kits for some	Kit with resin	Welding
Weight	Light	Medium	Heavy
Sizes	100-1,500 ltrs	100-1,500 ltrs	300-1,500 ltrs
Level visibility	Good	Poor	None: Sight gauge required
Cost	Low	Medium	High
Comments	Not easy to repair Select UV resistant materials Easy to mount May stain after time	Can break or crack under impact Mounting is difficult Inside may flake due to effect of corrosive materials	Strong and durable Very heavy Most expensive Difficult to repair

PRESENTING THE POWERFUL NEW REELMASTER SERIES.

