

MACHINERY MAINTENANCE

...made easy!

We take a brief look at some of the maintenance products and advice on the market today...

STAY SHARP

Keith Cann-Evans highlights the best way to keep your most valuable machinery in tip-top condition.

The prime objective of every golf course is to keep the greens in top condition. Huge investment is made in a vast array of course maintenance equipment, of which, grass-cutting machinery probably accounts for the largest proportion of spend.

It is essential that these machines are kept fully functional. Which is why being able to service and sharpen the blades quickly and efficiently, minimising the downtime, is as important as the mowers themselves.

Until recently the option to purchase your own grinder or retain the services of a contractor has been a financial decision depending mainly on the number of units requiring servicing. The financial investment of a grinder has been compared directly with the cost of using a contractor. But using an outside agency brings its own problems. Apart from the inconvenience of having to schedule the grinding programme it can also mean the machines are off site for an extended period of time.

One element that has altered the equation is the requirement of modern day clubs to improve the quality of the greens to meet the standards expected by members. This has led to a greater emphasis on top dressing programmes, which inevitably reduces the sharpness of the grass cutting equipment. This in turn increases the frequency for re-grinding the cylinders and bottom blades. The net result is the equipment requires more than the annual sharpening and costs rise accordingly. The flexibility and efficiency of having your own machine on site and having complete control over the time management of the workshop can be the deciding factor.

Many grass cutting machinery manufacturers believe that the key to achieving optimum performance from your mowers is to grind the blades back to the original manufacturers specification. To do this you have to choose your grinder and method of sharpening from the number of grinding machines available offering spin, relief or a combination of both methods of sharpening.

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