

Q&A

Robert Jack, Area Sales Manager from Dennis Mowers, answers questions on setting up your mower and explains the basics



Professional mower performance depends on the correct set-up and adjustment procedures. Although there are design variations in cutting units, most require the same basic procedures.

Accurate height of cut tools including a setting bar and proper instructions are essential for setting up a cutting unit. As a leading British manufacturer of innovative professional grounds maintenance equipment, Dennis helps greenkeepers from around the world to create their ultimate natural turf surface.

Why is a sharp, clean cut so important?

Playability and presentation. A well-maintained course stands out. Cutting or tearing with a blunt cylinder will result in bruising the grass leaf. This will lead to the tip where the tear has taken place turning white - not a pretty sight. Disease can attack this area causing further problems and cost to remedy the situation.

Why is this poor cut happening?

Either a poorly set mower or wear in the cylinder or bottom blade...or cylinder bearing failure. All of these will need attention.

Why is height of cut important?

Setting the height of cut is critical for a number of reasons,

particularly on the greens. If the grass is too long then the accuracy and the speed of the ball is affected.

How do I set height of cut?

Setting the height of cut is generally done using a height setting bar. This is usually supplied by the manufacturer or can be obtained from your dealer. The bar should be long enough to go under both front and rear rollers. There is a threaded bolt with a locking nut that goes through the setting bar. The desired mowing height is measured from the top of the bar to the underside of the bolt head.

On a pedestrian mower the bar is placed under the two rollers with the mower tipped back. The underside of the bolt head is placed on the top of the bottom blade. The mowing height is adjusted by raising and lowering the front roller as the rear roller is fixed. When the front roller rests on the top of the setting bar the roller can be locked in position. Both sides must be set to be certain of the same height of cut across the full working width. If this is not the case then a step in the cut will be obvious for all to see.

Why do greenkeepers use cassette system cylinder mowers?

It is very much down to the individual greenkeeper's preference whether they use a dedicated cylinder mower or a cassette system. Cassette systems offer flexibility and a single

power unit solution for many daily maintenance tasks such as scarifying, verticutting and brushing. Additional cassettes can be purchased to enhance the system and also cassette machines reduce the maintenance costs because there is only one engine and drive system to service. The system also takes up less space in the club's maintenance facility which can often be an issue.

Does the amount of blades on a cylinder affect the quality of cut?

Generally speaking the more blades in the cylinder, the finer the cut will be. Other factors need to be considered such as the diameter of the cylinder and the speed of rotation. When selecting a cylinder, frequency of mowing must be a major factor as the more blades you have in a cylinder the less grass is taken off on each cut.

Can I fit a new bottom blade myself?

In order to achieve a good quality of cut, firstly the cylinder will need to be sharp. This can only be realistically achieved with the use of a cylinder grinder. The bottom blade must be a mirror image of the cylinder. If it isn't then you will not be able to set the cylinder on cut properly or it will not stay on cut for long. The chances are the two surfaces will have to be set too tightly to achieve a cut which would result in excessive wear.



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