

EDITORIAL

Truly a long winter. This past winter season of 1976-1977 has been much longer with respect to the amount of time our grounds crew personnel has had to work inside. Unforeseen problems arise sometimes when a highly compatible crew of men are confined together for unusually long periods of time. Jobs to be accomplished during the winter months in the golf course maintenance shop slightly differ in importance. It involves cleaning surfaces for painting, then painting or whatever process is required. Most of the other work is accomplished by the mechanic, who has his work pretty well cut out for him. Logic tells us that the meticulous individual will be selected for refinishing the beautiful redwood signs for the tees; even though he was employed only two months ago; and the long term employee must paint the same benches he has painted four years previous. What is it about the indoor confinement that causes rebellion? Is it because they took this job for outdoor work and suddenly they are confined indoors? Also thought provoking is the fact that some people want to work outside no matter what the weather conditions and others say, "You wouldn't make me work outside in this type of weather". Personal management is an art all its own; how well do you pride yourself in managing your employees? How do you gain their respect; by consistently bragging that you know more than they do, or do you retain it all with the idea that their knowledge of golf course maintenance will surpass yours and thus hinder your position? Respect - respect your employees and they will respect you, that's first on the list. Teaching them will only enhance your position and your knowledge. Now you must instill this same attitude into your assistant, foreman and mechanic; for the situation is no different for them and again personal management becomes an art all its own.

Explain this one: in testing a piece of maintenance equipment the mechanic appears to be mistreating or abusing it (Example - skidding the tires while checking the brakes, to see if one brake is grabbing more than the other), the operator wonders why he is reprimanded when he does it. The mechanic must go and hide someplace when he tests equipment. Remember that, those of you building new shop facilities, include in the design a hiding place.

Supervising is full time, winter and summer; correct problems immediately, letting them ride will only allow them to get out of hand. Keep the spirit of your employees high, the quality of your golf course will reflect this.

Anonymous

MOWING MANAGEMENT CAN HALT DISEASE

John Hall, turf specialist at the University of Maryland, passes along this tip to superintendents. Often, mowers can do great harm to turfgrass during disease epidemics. Not only will the effect of mowing generally weaken the grass, but the operation can further spread the disease.

If there is a diseased area on your course, it is better to mow in that area last. Clean mowers before you take them back into healthy turf areas. Mowers are probably the finest disease spreaders ever devised. They not only drag spores over turf areas, but make wounds for fungal entry.

During times of disease on your course, remember planned and well thought out mowing habits are crucial to stopping disease.

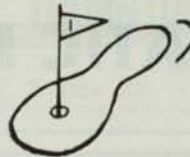
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