

## The Use of a Flail Mower in Golf Course Management

by Dave Ward, Ravisloe C.C.

In the spring of 1983, a greensaire fairway airification program was initiated at Ravisloe Country Club. In order to receive maximum benefit from the soil removed during airification, the plugs were verticut with a Toro GMIII. This process proved to be too much strain on the greensmower. When an equipment distributor demonstrated the Mott flail mower as a possible vertical mower/dethatcher, it seemed the machine might have potential for breaking plugs on the fairways.

After some experimentation, a Mott model 88 flail mower with fine cut, reverse rotation, and a front deflector shield was purchased. It was used to break up plugs in the fall of 1983 with excellent results, except for some ripping of turf due to poor roots last fall. When used this spring, no grass was ripped regardless of terrain. Next spring, a drag mat will be installed behind the Mott to drag the soil into the turf before the fairways are blown off.

This past spring, the Mott mower was used to aid in spring cleanup. After all of the large branches were removed, the flail mower, with vertical knives was run over the remaining small debris. This process chopped the small branches into such small pieces that in most cases a sweeper was not needed. The machine proved very effective under willow trees. Previous to using the Mott, spring cleanup required eight men about one month to hand rake the course. This year, four men cleaned the course in about two weeks.

The flail mower was also used last fall to mulch leaves. It is not as effective as a woods mower, but with some modification in shields, might work as well. This fall, the flail mower will be used to aid in seedbed preparation.

Credit: Verdure 7/84

## Putting Numbers in Perspective

Concern over chemical misuse is warranted, but alarm over "chemicals" is not. Perhaps one way to begin reducing public fear is to put the pertinent analytical numbers in perspective.

Since figures representing parts-per-billion or parts-per-trillion are often used in reports on contaminants found in chemicals, some perspective on those numbers seems particularly desirable — especially for any golf course manager who wants to help golfers understand factors of potential exposure and risk on the course. The numbers that follow here are tendered with that interest in mind.

One part per **billion** equals:

- 1 bogey to 3,500,000 golf tournaments.
- 1 lob to 1,200,000 tennis matches.
- 1 penny to \$10,000,000.
- 1 square foot to 36 square miles.
- 1 pinch of salt to 10 tons of potato chips.
- 1 inch to a 16,000-mile trip.

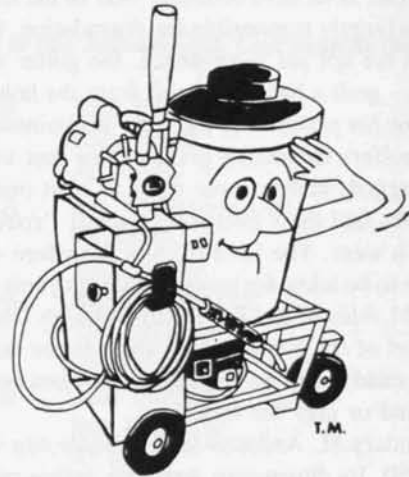
One part per **trillion** equals:

- 1 postage stamp to an area the size of Dallas.
- 1 square inch to 250 square miles.
- 1 hairbreadth to a trip around the world.

(The above examples originated with Dow Chemical Co.)

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