

Editorial Response



David DeBra

I agree that the shortage of qualified golf course mechanics has grown into a major problem and the problem can be solved. I disagree that Toro and Jacobsen have let the industry down in training mechanics.

The manufacturers and their distributors are well aware of the growing need for trained mechanics in the golf industry. Long standing training programs have been expanded and intensified. The manufacturers provide annually a series of training schools at their factory facilities. These schools start with the basics and increase to advanced courses. These factory schools are supplemented at the local level with yearly service schools covering "trouble shooting" problems and repairing equipment. In addition, our company has had an open invitation to customers wanting their people trained in our service department on specific equipment or procedures.

The manufacturer and distributor can improve their training programs and we want to improve, because the customers' ability to maintain equipment has a direct bearing on the reputation of the manufacturers' equipment and the industry's professional image.

Other factors which have contributed to this personnel problem should be considered and rectified.

- (a) Law of Supply and Demand —
Has the pay scale for golf course mechanics encouraged entering and remaining in the field?
- (b) Perspective —
Has management supported and encouraged available training programs?
- (c) Priorities —
Has management placed sufficient time and money in developing qualified mechanics?

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