

Evaluating Golf Course Equipment for South Florida

by DAVID L. DeBRA



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The uniqueness of golf course operations in South Florida is often misunderstood when evaluating turf maintenance equipment. It is a fact that no other part of the United States places the severe demands on turf equipment like the golf course operations in South Florida. The following considerations are often overlooked in evaluating the initial purchase, replacement

and maintenance of turf equipment in the area South of Orlando. is the Bermuda grass used almost exclusively on South Florida golf courses. The Bermuda grass, requiring constant de-thatching and aerating for best playing conditions and appearance, places a burden on specialized equipment designed for these procedures.

A final consideration that is often overlooked is the time available for preventative maintenance. In the Northern States, the winter season allows time for complete inspection and rebuilding of equipment, preventing damage to major components. The winter simply does not allow time for the South Florida courses for major rebuilding because of the continued demand for attention by the golf course.

I have observed that the courses that receive maximum life and efficiency from their equipment have a conscientious and detailed preventative maintenance program for replacing filters and oil, cleaning, lubricating and adjusting equipment. The superintendent has correctly found time to implement these daily procedures to assure maximum benefit and life from the equipment.

If all of the above are properly considered the realistic expected life of equipment in South Florida is as follows:

Greens, tees, apron mowers, 3 to 4 years.

Fairway mowers, 4 to 5 years.

Tractors, 4 to 6 years.

Utility vehicles, 4 to 5 years.

Specialty equipment (aerators, de-thatchers, sprayers and sweepers) 5 to 6 years.

Several variables are involved in life span but the above scheduled has proven to be the proper time element before expecting major extensive repairs to equipment.

It is recommended that a realistic depreciation schedule of equipment would incorporate the lower yearly figure of the above schedule. The unique and demanding elements of a South Florida golf course operation requires a thorough evaluation of turf equipment and a proper comparison to operations in other parts of the United States. Budgets, depreciation schedules, and time of equipment replacement should reflect these considerations.

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HOOKS AND SLICES

A good supervisor, someone once said, is a guy who can step on your toes without messing up your shine.

I have yet to be bored by someone paying me a compliment.

If you wish to make a man your enemy, tell him simply, "You are wrong." This method works every-time.

If life hands you a lemon, make lemonade.

Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.

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on bermuda grass and is very selective. It is a product of Rohm and Haas, the active ingredient is 3, 5-dichloro-N-(1,1-dimethyl-2-propynyl)-benzamide.

Question: We often criticize researchers for working only on test plots what is your comment?

Johnson: We do hear that often, that is why I worked with Sencor for three years on seven golf courses.

Question: What is your main message to us?

Johnson: Often chemical salesmen are too influential on rates and not on purpose. Always use test plots yourself. Do not spray the entire golf course and then be sorry. It is very important to keep good records on all your spraying. Local people need a good current education on weed killing. Always understand your rates and keep good calibration of application. Our work is only as good as your application.

HOOKS AND SLICES

The salesman mentioned that he'd got three orders so far that day: "Get out. Stay out. And don't come back."

My wife and I have a perfect understanding I don't try to run her life . . . and I don't try to run mine.

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PLANTS IN TAMPA AND FT. PIERCE

Hector Supply Co. gives us a big hand!



In the past our small magazine staff has addressed the "South Florida Green" envelopes by hand . . . a time consuming job!

Now thanks to Hector Supply and their Computer Center we've gone modern . . . saving 75% of the time formerly spent.

Shown left to right; Ralph Luga, Computer Specialist, Ralph Baxter, Vice President, Turf Sales and Fred J. Maxted, President Hector Supply Co.

Florida Golf Team Wins National Title

We always knew our state had great golfing superintendents but now it is a proven fact. In its initial attempt, our state team won the national championship of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. The tournament site was Industry Hills, California. The event was prior to the 52nd International Conference at Anaheim, California.

Our four man team won by a four-stroke margin over runnerup Rocky Mountain GCSA. Our victorious team was led by Dan Meyers, CGCS, Temple Terrace G&CC of the West Coast Chapter. His pace of 70, 77 also won individual medalist honors. Other teammates were Kevin Downing, CGCS, Atlantis Golf Club, Palm Beach Chapter; Fred Klauk, Pine Tree Golf Club, Palm Beach Chapter; and Robby Robbins, Gainesville G&CC, North Palm Beach Chapter. The team was selected from the three statewide golf tournaments: Poa Annuu Classic, Crowfoot Open, and FTGA. Winners and best finishers that are going to the tournament represent the state chapter.

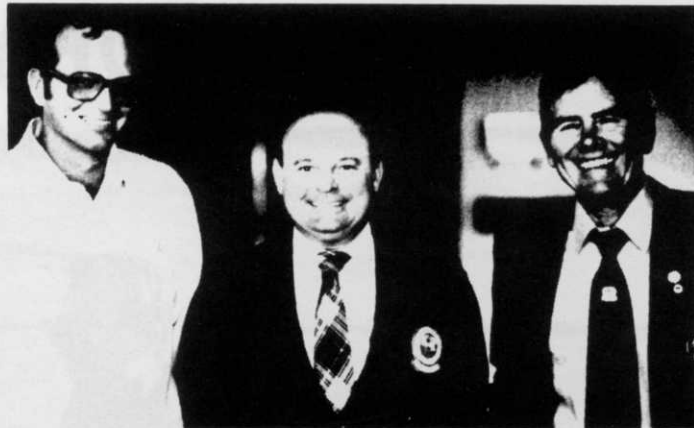
In the individual classes, a 15-20 handicap flight, we also had another winner: Bill Jeffrey, Woodmont Country Club, South Florida Chapter.

The eight low individual scores were challenged by the visiting Scotland team. In a match play format the American team won 7-1



HOOKS AND SLICES

Two guys were walking down Collins Ave. on Miami Beach when a Seagull swooped down and made a deposit on one of the guy's hat. "Don't move," said his friend, "I'll get some toilet paper." The guy with the hat says, "Don't bother. He's miles away by now."



Dan Meyers, Melvin B. Lucas Jr., Walter Woods.

STRAIGHT SHOTS

Fifty-six men signed the Declaration of Independence. Five were captured or imprisoned in the war that followed. Nine died of wounds or hardships. Twelve lost their homes. Seventeen lost everything they owned. Everyone of them were hunted. Most were driven into hiding. They were offered immunity, rewards, the return of their property or freedom of their loved ones to desert the cause. Not one did. Not one broke their pledge.

Choking to death on food is the sixth largest cause of accidental death in the nation. Victims of potentially fatal choking can't breathe. They can't talk. Generally they turn gray-blue from lack of oxygen after a moment or two and they collapse. Until now, remedies for choking on food have not been reliable: pounding the victim on the back, reaching into the throat to dislodge the food, etc.

Here's how the "Heimlich Maneuver" works:

Grab the victim and stand behind him or her. Wrap your arms around the waist, allowing the choking victim's upper torso to hang forward.

Make a fist with one hand and grasp it with the other, placing both hands against the victim's abdomen with a quick upward thrust, expelling the air in the lungs.

Repeat several times if necessary, but it usually works the first time.

If the victim is prone or unconscious, turn him on his back and kneel astride the torso and place both hands on the victim's abdomen slightly above the naval and below the rib cage - and again, press with a quick upward thrust.