



Easy Scraper for Clean Rollers

Solid rollers on walking mowers can be a saving grace for turfgrass managers during periods of the year when your turf is under stress. However, the build up of wet clippings, fertilizer and sand on the solid roller can drastically affect the height and smoothness of cut as well as becoming a nuisance for the operator who must often stop mowing and clean the debris stuck on the front roller.

This problem can occur at various times throughout the year especially during cold winters when heavy rates of Milorganite were applied to help draw in heat. The Milorganite can become caked on the front roller for several days after the application is made. I have also seen the problem during grow-ins and after seasonal renovations when there are a lot of clippings, fertilizer and sand present on the surface. This past summer when the problem arose again during the grow-in of our newly renovated greens I asked my equipment and facilities manager, Joe Stefanick, to help me solve this problem once and for all.

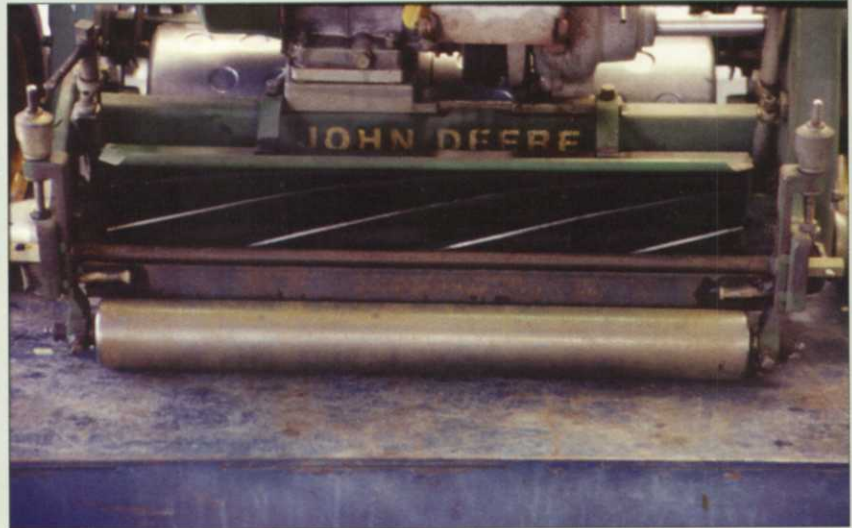
It was decided we were not looking for a quick fix that would be short lived. We had tried one such temporary solution which failed, using fishing line tied to the roller brackets and stretched tight against the roller. While it was effective in the short term, it became a nightmare to keep them installed for any length of time. Therefore, I set Joe free to use his creativity with the charge of, "Do it cheap but make it effective and durable." I don't ask for much do I? What he created was very successful and durable.

The roller scrapers that Joe constructed are attached to our 1993 John Deere 22-inch walking greens mowers. The scraper itself is a 1-1/4-inch wide by 3/16-inch thick piece of flat stock cut to a length of 22-1/2 inches that rests (floats) on top of the solid front roller. This provides a 1/4-inch overhang on each side of the 22-inch-wide roller. A 3/8-inch by 2-inch metal pin was then welded on the upper third of the flat stock on both ends. This pin rests freely in the height-of-cut-brackets above the roller. By welding the pin to the top third and in the front of the flat stock scraper, the scraper rests at an angle on the top of the roller. The weight of the flat stock holds it against the roller and keeps any material cleaned off so it can't accumulate and become a nuisance.

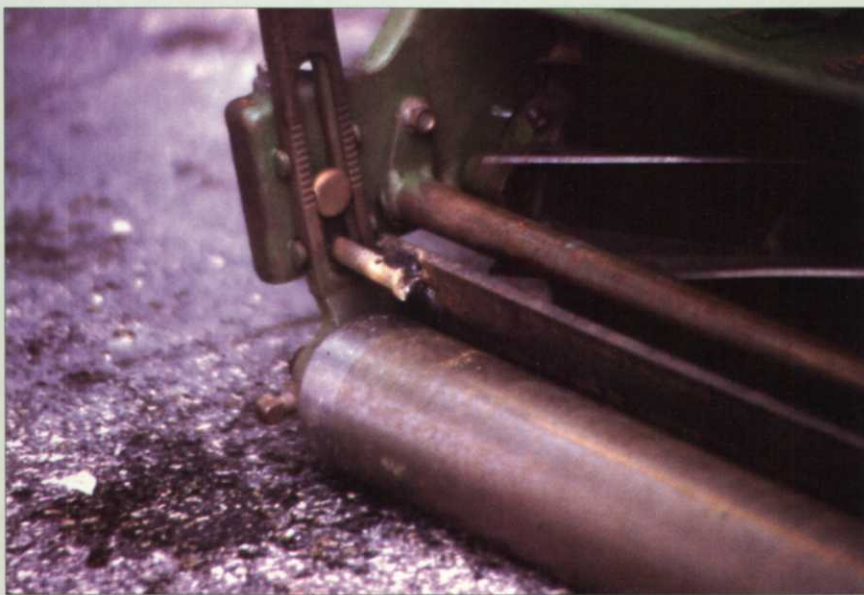
The roller scraper that Joe designed and constructed for us took less than 10 minutes to install and cost around \$5 to build. The total weight is just 1.6 pounds. We would expect this time-saving device to easily last the life of the equipment that it is mounted on.

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Front view of roller scraper mounted on walking greens mower. Photo by Darren Davis.



Close up view showing scraper orientation to the roller and mounting pin resting in height of cut bracket. Photo by Darren Davis.