

Equipment Care That Pays

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THE subject of golf course maintenance is receiving more attention than it has heretofore from the men who are responsible, so I believe it is well for me to remind my fellow greenkeepers at this time that there is one branch of our profession which has been given very little thought. It is the care of golf course equipment.

First comes machinery, which includes tractors, green, tee and power mowers, compost mixers, compost screens, compost distributors, seeders, wagons, spraying outfits, etc. Treat this equipment as something of great importance. There should be an understanding that when a machine does not operate properly there is something materially wrong and the cause most usually is an accident, or that the operator does not fully understand the working of this particular machine.

When anything does break it should not be repaired with a piece of wire, but should be inspected by someone who understands machinery, and will, if necessary, secure the parts to repair it from the manufacturer. The most important point is to teach the operator what he should personally do to keep the machine he operates in proper working order. There are a great many who need much instruction, and who do not appreciate the value of proper care in the operation of the particular machine. I want to impress on everyone concerned that the operators of machinery be given a thorough understanding of their responsibilities. The importance of lubrication should be made clear to them. When they have finished for the day (especially cutting grass) the hose should be turned on the machines to free them from grit and grass. All bolts and nuts should be gone over every day and tightened where necessary. Such instructions usually come with machinery, and should be followed more closely. When the equipment has been taken into the barn at the end of the season, work should be started immediately on the overhauling.

Overhauling Pointers

The tractor should be the first to receive attention, the work to be done depending

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on the age of the machine. If the tractor has been in use for only one season all that is usually necessary is cleaning out the carbon and grinding the valves, going over the bolts and nuts on the chassis and body. All of the grease cups should be taken out and cleaned ready to be filled before operation. If the tractor is two years old or more, it is possible that you have had trouble during the season with fouled spark plugs, which is usually an indication of leaky piston rings. The best way to remedy this trouble is to take the old rings out and replace them with new ones a little oversize, then the connecting rod bearings may need taking up. There may also be worn knuckles on the steering gear that may need replacing. If you are not familiar with this work it will pay you to spend a few hours in a garage once in a while. You will be surprised at what you can accomplish on your tractors.

Next comes the mowing equipment. Every unit should be taken apart and thoroughly cleaned. The cleaning can be done with kerosene and an old brush. Then all of the bearings must be examined as they frequently show a great deal of wear. If so, they should be replaced as it is impossible to set a mower properly with loose bearings. You may find worn gears. When replacing never put a new gear with a worn one, as the old gear will wear out the new one in a very short time. When ordering parts from the factory always order two of one kind, then you will be prepared for an emergency. It is nearly always necessary to replace the bottom knives to start the season. The reels have to be ground at this time. Those who have a lawnmower grinder are very fortunate, as the grinding is of short duration. Those who have no grinder must resort to grinding with emery, which is a laborious task, unless they send their units out to be overhauled. This should be avoided if possible as it means an added expense which can be eliminated.

There are probably a good many who do not know that by grinding the reels too frequently they are shortening the life of the mower. The grinding during the overhauling is all they require. It is only necessary to have an even surface so that the

bottom knife touches at all points. During the cutting season, the reel should be set so that it just touches the bottom knife, not tight, as this causes undue friction and wears the reel. The green, tee, and power mowers should all receive the same treatment. If inexperienced at this work it is well to mark parts or lay them in such a position that you may put them in their proper place when assembling.

When taking inventory, which should be an annual occurrence, it is very easy to check up on your tools, making notes on replacements and new equipment, then when making up your budget for the year these notes will aid you wonderfully.

Every greenkeeper should be able to take care of his equipment, thereby reducing his budget materially.

All of the machinery should receive a coat of paint. In fact every piece of equipment should be painted, including the tools, as it prolongs their life and removes that dilapidated appearance which everything gets after it has been in service any length of time. If these methods are strictly adhered to by all, especially those who have not given this very particular branch of the profession the care it most decidedly deserves, they will find a most decided reduction in their maintenance budget.

Notify GOLFDOM of Club Changes

When there are elections or appointments of new president, greens chairman, manager, professional or greenkeeper, please notify GOLFDOM at once.

GOLFDOM is edited expressly for these five men and is to be sent to them, personally addressed, free each month.

Please notify us of names and addresses of these officials at once, to check our present lists, and keep us advised of all changes.

It will help your club to get the most practical benefit from GOLFDOM.

GOLFDOM

The Business Journal of Golf
225 N. Michigan Ave. CHICAGO

Local Rule Suggestion for 1927

"Every ball in play shall bear a distinctive marking which will not only identify it immediately in play but will definitely establish its ownership when found by anyone."

Under Such a Rule—

Play is accelerated
Mistakes are avoided
Caddies may receive *honest* compensation for balls found—
and incidentally the player profits.

***This is unquestionably a matter
worthy of official club action***

The Fulname Company, 707 Southern Railway Bldg., Cincinnati, Ohio
will be glad to furnish detailed information upon request.