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# Golfdom

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## Vigilance and skill in CARE of EQUIPMENT can make or break budget

By FRED SHERWOOD

Greenkeeper, Birmingham (Mich.) Country Club

VERY important item at a golf course but rarely touched upon by writers is the handling and managing of golf course equipment. This is a subject which ought to be carefully considered by all greenkeepers or anyone else who has the charge of a golf course in his hands.

When May comes around all golf clubs, I would say, will have had their machinery and equipment overhauled and replacements of worn out and broken parts made. They are all set to undergo the wear and tear and constant grind of a long season for any make of a machine. Granted that 19 out of 20 golf clubs start out at the beginning of a season with equipment that is in first class order and efficiency, how

long is it before we hear the old familiar cry, "I am having nothing but bad luck, machines are always breaking down," etc. Some of us may strike a patch of ill luck sometime but really in the majority of cases it is sheer neglect on someone's part. Not so long ago power mowers and other machinery used on a golf courses were more or less a mystery to greenkeeper's and the machines' users. But present-day manufacturers have brought their machines up to such standards of efficiency that any average intelligent man can operate them. Equipment at all times ought to be always in good condition. If neglected it is soon going to make itself manifest on a golf course.



*P. and A. photo.*

There will have to be something done about planes smoothing out wheel prints in traps if we have many more cases like this one at Westbury C. C. where Capt. Boris Sergievsky overshot Roosevelt Field.

I like to make one man responsible for all mowers. I usually pick out a man who is more or less interested in machinery and make him sort of mechanic. It is up to him to examine all green and tee machines, adjusting same and running his eye over them before they commence their day's work. A man soon becomes proficient in this kind of work.

### Inspect at Start

The inspection or "parade," as a member once put it when he saw the men lined up with their machines, usually lasts 5 or 10 minutes to get his O. K. Each machine is set to cut the same height and carefully lubricated before being taken away. Equipment is a very expensive item on a golf course. The average golf club will have investments in machinery and equipment from anywhere in the vicinity of \$5,000 to \$10,000 and some have more, as the discarded machinery will testify at some of the clubs I have visited.

Machinery can not take care of itself—to run smoothly it must have the closest attention. Every broken or worn part should be replaced promptly. Don't let your men use such subterfuges as wire and nails. Get him the parts needed and save money for your club and curses for yourself. Fairway units are items that some greenkeepers have the most trouble with as to breakage, etc. I find a good rule with my tractor mowers is to limit them to a certain speed in accordance with the conditions of the course.

### Watch for Perils

A mower traveling at the rate of 10 miles an hour has no chance whatever of seeing a submerged stone or a tree root or any other object. I encourage the men to mark all fixed objects that are likely to come in contact with the units so that they may be removed. By doing this and paying constant attention to your machinery your budget for the year will be greatly reduced and your course be greatly improved.

A spare unit should always be kept on hand in case of emergency. Another item which won't be out of place for me to mention and where a deal of wastage can be avoided and money saved is to have installed a gasoline tank and pump, also oil tanks and pumps; in this way you can keep a check on your consumption and as the outlay for a 500 gallon tank and pump is under \$50 no up-to-date golf club should be without one.

The loss of golf clubs resulting from

neglect of machinery and equipment is a subject that wants careful thought. It is not always the greenkeeper who is to blame for the accumulation of all kinds of freak machines and labor saving devices that are thrown in the discard down in the sheds, but rather the blame is on his chairman of the committee, who perhaps bought it without the greenkeeper's knowledge.

Take care of your machinery and you will reduce your budget. From actual experience in my 23 years of golf course management I have found that by taking care of my machinery I have been able to greatly reduce on labor.

## New Jersey Finances State Turf Research

APPROPRIATIONS committee of the New Jersey State legislature at its last session recommended an appropriation of \$5,000 to aid in the turf research work which is being carried on by the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment station at New Brunswick, N. J.

New Jersey is to be congratulated on being the first state encouraging turf research work in this manner. Representatives of the United States Golf association, the New Jersey State Golf association, and the Essex County Park commission appeared before the committee at Trenton and presented the case for the appropriation. It was pointed out that the parks and park commissions in Essex, Union, Camden, Bergen and Passaic counties have need for this research because of their park golf courses and other sport facilities making use of turf, and that the home owners and cemetery associations of the state also would be the beneficiaries of the state's turf research.

The New Jersey appropriation will give further help to the work that has been carried on at the State station under Dr. Howard B. Sprague, agronomist, and Dr. J. C. Lipman, director. The U. S. G. A. Green Section has made an appropriation to assist the financing of work at this station for a number of years.

It is hoped that this pioneering of the New Jersey state body will encourage like action by other states. It is confidently expected that the residents of the state will benefit to the extent of many thousands of dollars by the work made possible by the increased appropriation.