Being Ready for Tomorrow Calls for Keeping Equipment in Shape

By FLOYD L. VOSLER, SUPERINTENDENT Miracle Hill and Cedar Hills Golf Courses Omaha, Nebraska

Being ready for tomorrow is very important in our operation. My courses are 18-hole and 9-hole privately owned daily fee layouts. Early morning play constitutes a big part of our business on both weekdays and weekends. So we must get our work on greens and tees done early and fast. We must always be ready for tomorrow.

All mowers and equipment at the end of the day's work are cleaned, filled with gasoline and oil and checked for possible repairs or adjustments. I take care of the adjustments myself. It is important to know that all mowers are cutting properly and at the prescribed height.

We follow this routine daily so that when the course employees arrive for work in the morning they can start their assigned jobs without waste of time. This eliminates confusion around the shop and doesn't interfere with my plans or routine if one man is late for work. Tardiness, incidentally, isn't permitted very often and isn't overlooked without an excuse. We have a place in our shop for everything and everything must be kept in its place. There is a concrete floor in the shop. So that no reel or roller-type machine sits on the concrete I have had a wooden floor built over the concrete. This eliminates the chance of rust. We think machines are like humans; they must be cared for properly if they are to give the service desired.

We use a nationally advertised brand of lubricant. When we purchase a new piece of equipment we give the model number, etc. to the lubrication engineers and take their recommendations on the grease and oil to be used. This has eliminated the spending of many dollars for repairs and labor losses because of breakdowns.

We don't think our operation is exceptional in any way but we follow an established equipment maintenance routine, improving it as we go along. This, I believe, will add years of service to equipment.

An afterthought: In case of an emergency I am around to fill in. I think it's a good idea to retain the "feel" of the machines your men operate. It also would be good for the waistlines of many supts.

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