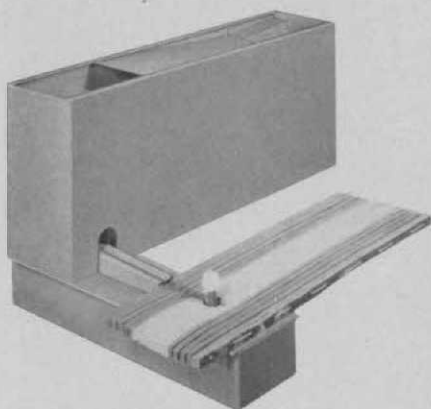


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## **Questions and Answers**

### **Old Machinery Is Costly**

Pride in ancient pieces of equipment that still operate is justifiable and understandable — up to a point. Old-car buffs spend much time and money in keeping their relics running and fit to chug along in the Fourth of July parade. For these fanciers of ancient Maxwells and Wintons it is a game — a hobby.

Golf courses are crowded with ancient pieces of equipment that long ago should have been consigned to the scrap heap or to the museum. Once a year should be often enough to bring them out, dust them off, and show them at the supts' meetings. The younger men in the profession deserve to have a chance to examine the types of equipment that were used by their ancestors in course maintenance.

### **Never Retire Them**

Unfortunately, many of these antiquated objects are kept on the firing line. Mechanics are expected to keep them operating day after day under any and all conditions. Some of them are patched with baling wire. To top it off, some supts. brag that they have been saving their clubs money by not turning the junk in on new dependable machines. Records, had they been kept, probably would show that the "saved money" was mighty expensive.

Every machine has a certain life expectancy. The term "depreciation" is familiar to all who make out tax returns. In a given number of years a machine becomes "fully depreciated". Some go downhill faster than others. This point should be carefully considered. During the period of depreciation, provision should be made in the golf course budget for accumulation of a "New Machinery Fund". This item can be set up so that, at the end of the term of full depreciation, money automatically will be provided for the purchase of a new modern machine. The old one can be sold, it may be turned in as part payment, or it can be kept as a standby.

If every golf course would set up an equipment replacement fund, there would be no necessity for the supt to "go begging" to the committee for a badly needed new machine. It is so easy for an unsympathetic or uninformed committee member to ask, "What's the matter with the old one? Can't we make it run another year? We'd like to have new drapes in the clubhouse". We've heard this quite often.

New machinery provides benefits through improvements in design. These make for efficiency of operation and make course maintenance a good deal easier. Upkeep is much less on new equipment.

The supt. who keeps junk machinery running with baling wire does neither himself nor his club a favor. Green chmn. could render a valuable service by helping their supts. to devise a plan to provide for the automatic replacement of outdated and antiquated equipment.

#### Clover Infestation

**Q.** Some of my fairways seem to be increasing in clover infestation. How can I keep it out of other fairways and get rid of it in the fairways where I already have it? (Wisconsin)

**A.** One of the best ways to keep clover out of a fairway is to fertilize adequately with nitrogen so that the turf becomes dense and resists clover invasion. But you may have types of grasses in your fairway that become diseased and, therefore, become thin and leave ready-made places for clover invasion. In a case like this, fertilization becomes even more important and, secondly, you will have a continual battle on your hands to get rid of the clover after it comes in.

So far as we know, the best method of getting rid of clover is to spray with Brush Killer, which is a mixture of 2-4-D and 245-T. No directions will be given here because the directions on the containers usually are accurate and sufficient.

If fairways are irrigated, you can expect increased clover infestation and, of course, greater vigilance and more trips with the fairway sprayer to kill the clover after it appears.

#### Needs Greens Knowledge

**Q.** Our club is starting out in the spring with all new grass greens that were seeded to Penn-cross (Blue Tag Certified) bent seed last fall. The seedbeds were limed and fertilized with a blend of fertilizers containing inorganic, natural organic and ureaform sources of nitrogen, with ample phosphorus and potash. Our personnel is inexperienced. We need assistance on the care and maintenance of greens, especially

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