

10 Questions Most Frequently Asked about Greenmowers (at the GCSA turf show)

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The first question most commonly asked about greenmowers at the GCSA show was, "What's new?" It is very evident that the proper care and maintenance of greens is the most difficult and most time consuming portion of a supt's job. As a result, the latest innovation for greens maintenance is of primary interest to a supt. The addition of a new feature or a new principle, or anything which might be developed for either making the greens easier to care for or produce better results, is of primary interest.

The second most commonly asked question was, "What's better about your machine than Brand X?" It is apparent that not only is the introduction of new features important but this question shows a definite, comparative analysis is being made by the supt. between various makes of greenmowers. Generally speaking, a supt. will try to "get all the facts" on a particular unit and then go on to the next manufacturer and again try to learn all of the advantages of his machine. In the end the supt. compares features, the advantages, and performance of each of the machines to make a more intelligent choice.

The third question asked was, "What about thatch control?" Again, proper control of specific green problems is of primary interest. Apparently with the introduction of hybrid and very vigorous grasses being introduced for greens, the problem of controlling thatch is of primary consideration. The whole story of various models of brushes, combs, and "scuffing type" rollers is of great interest in this regard. The mower offering the highest degree of flexibility in this regard has the advantage.

4. "Why skids?" In this particular toro

unit, the Greensmaster utilizes front skids instead of rollers to support the cutting unit. This is relatively new. Merely explaining the existence of skids usually is not enough. The actual mowing results and the results on the green have to be explained. An actual demonstration or a trial period of use is usually suggested in



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... it's not the original price.

order to show the results, in short — prove it!

5. What does "Free Floating" mean? The Greensmaster has the unique feature of a free floating or independent cutting unit. This allows the cutting unit to be completely independent from the influences of engines, operator and weight of the grass clippings and driving mechanism of the machine. The theory and practice of this design has to be explained fully.

6. "Operator ease and convenience?" The consideration of the supt. for the ease
(Continued on page 126)

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How About Russia

The other course that I am eager to design is in the U. S. S. R. Not long ago our former ambassador to the Soviet Union, Llewelyn Thompson, said that he would return to that post only if there was a course to play. I think the Russians won't go on neglecting golf.

Golf, with its appeal to the aesthetic, the skilled, the person of means and to the person of average income, is our nation's most satisfying sport. It is also a profitable enterprise for those who approach it with the demand that it pay its way. With recreational areas in our nation shrinking, I believe that it is time that those who are interested in keeping the sport alive, work to provide more courses. This requires long-range planning. I'm sure that most of the people in our profession are ready to meet that challenge.

The 1963 schedule of the Chicago District GA which starts May 1 and runs through October includes more than 200 dates.

10 Questions on Mowers

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and convenience of his operators of a mower is important. The supt. is primarily concerned with the cutting results on his greens, but the operator, too, receives some consideration.

7. "Speed of mowing and transport?" Getting the job done fast in a minimum amount of time and the resulting economies are of concern. Often times we are asked, "Isn't it more economical to have one or two extra mowers?" This type of thinking shows a thorough understanding of the problems of greens and appreciation, too, of the problems of mowing before the golfers come out to the course.

8. "Where's the differential?" The particular design of the Greensmaster incorporates a fully enclosed gear train and differential drive system. As a result, the unit has no chains and sprockets or bearings which are exposed to undue wear to dirt and foreign material. This shows a certain amount of understanding and some appreciation for compact and sound engineering principles on the part of the

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supt. A supt. is not just a manager of men and a purchaser of equipment, but is an equipment and mechanical expert.

9. "What about maintenance requirements?" This question, too, shows a great appreciation and awareness of the mechanical aspects of operating equipment. Supts. are becoming aware that the original purchase price of a piece of equipment is not the criteria of economy. The cost of keeping equipment running, as well as the number of hours of "down time", are important considerations.

10. "What about grass catcher durability?" This shows an even closer analysis of the component parts of a particular mowing machine with an eye toward durability and longevity. The supt. has an increasing appreciation of the abuse and usage which his equipment is exposed to during its life span.

Rutgers Field Days

The Rutgers University turf field days are scheduled for Aug. 7-8 at the College of Agriculture in New Brunswick, N. J. Ralph E. Engel, professor in turf management, again is in charge of the two-day program.

Temperament in Fitting

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As for flexibility of shaft and club weight, these things aren't as confusing or complex as many of us make them out to be. In many cases, these factors actually come down to the temperament of the person with whom you are dealing. A strong, muscular person naturally should be considered for a firm, possibly even stiff shaft, with club weight on the heavy side. The slight person, of course, probably should be fitted with a quite flexible shaft and a light to medium weight club.

Nervous or Deliberate Type?

But don't accept this as the final word. Over the years I have taken a fitting cue from the customer's manner of speech and, to a lesser degree, his actions or apparent temperament. If he is a fast talker and something of a nervous type, he is sure to be a fast swinger. For such a person, I recommend a club with a shaft that is not too whippy and overall weight that is on the heavy side. You have to do something with a person like this to get him slowed down. The same kind of