

# ENERGY CONSERVATION TIPS FROM TORO

In its continuing effort to help clubs through the energy crisis, The Toro Company of Minneapolis has distributed a leaflet including several solid suggestions for weathering the "crunch":

The energy crisis provides an opportunity to evaluate the managerial procedures and operational techniques required for high turfgrass standards so vital to achievement of environmental beauty and ecological balance. We suggest, says a Toro spokesman, a review and consideration of the management of budget, facilities, equipment, turfgrass and people.

## *Budget*

- Budget for increasingly higher prices
- Expect delays in deliveries of most products and supplies
- Fuel costs represent some 2 to 3 per cent of the budget, whereas labor is estimated to be 65 to 70 per cent
- Should fuel costs double or triple, the major savings still will accrue through efficient management of the labor factor
- Evaluate your equipment fleet against the tasks to be done
- New capital expenditures for higher capacity, more efficient mowing and irrigation equipment will save both in labor and fuel expenditures

## *Facilities*

- Lower working temperatures in office and shop
- Minimize interior and exterior lighting
- Seek alternative heating methods and do not heat or cool non-essential areas
- Consider use of insulation throughout the facility

## *Equipment*

- Keep engine tuned; adjust carburetor and ignition
- Keep air cleaner and combustion chamber clean
- Keep equipment properly adjusted

and lubricated

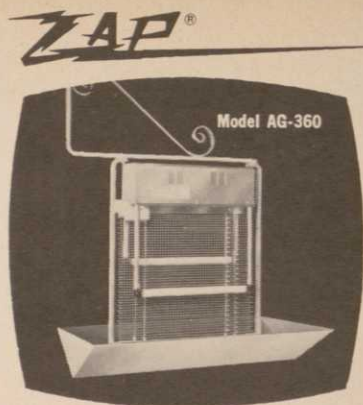
- Keep blades sharp to reduce friction loss
- Keep tires properly inflated
- Review owner's manual
- Establish preventive maintenance procedures

## *Turfgrass*

- Review all cultural practices and techniques
- Test soils to determine pH and nutrient levels
- Review fertilizer programs and products
- Evaluate watering schedules; frequency; amount and timing
- Correct all drainage problem areas
- Evaluate mowing schedules; frequency, timing and location
- Evaluate adaptation and use of turfgrass varieties. You now have versus characteristics to be found in "new" improved selections
- Evaluate height of cut in relation to type of mowing equipment
- Cultivate to ensure efficient use of fertilizer, water and chemicals
- Use pesticides wisely and maintain adequate programs for control of all pests, weeds, insects and diseases

## *People*

- Review all tasks and establish priorities
- Schedule equipment use to attain maximum efficiency
- Retrain operators on mowing techniques, equipment operation and adjustment
- Combine tasks, eliminate non-essential travel to and from work location
- Familiarize all personnel with owner's manual
- Analyze special trips
- Stock high use parts and use United Parcel Service for emergency deliveries.
- Form car pools for transportation to and from work and professional meetings



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