

The Wisconsin Golf Course Survey



KEEPING CLEAN

By Rod Johnson

Since I was drafted by the editor as he left town on his annual leafpeepers pilgrimage to New England, I found myself in the inevitable position of conducting and reporting on this issue's SURVEY.

Following what I considered a reasonable time period of two or three weeks procrastination and consternation on a relevant series of questions, the answer was right outside my office window.

The view was of our mower wash pad. The unsightliness and bad odor of a failing system inspired me to find out what a lot of other Wisconsin golf course superintendents are using for wash down facilities.

Below are the questions and the responses.

1. Do you wash mowing equipment daily?

Yes - 16. No - 13.

2. What kind of system do you use and what is the source of the water?

Eleven golf courses use high pressure water provided by their irrigation systems. Six courses utilize a low pressure water source, namely a well or city water. Two golf courses surveyed use a pressure washer that dispenses soap during the cleaning process.

3. Where does the rinsate (water, grass clippings, soil, etc.) go?

Twelve respondents said "on the ground" or into a holding tank where solids settle for removal and liquids flow away on the surface of the surrounding ground. Three respondents, including myself, use a septic or below-ground drainfield system. Four lucky golf courses are hooked to city sanitary or storm sewer systems.

4. The final question dealt with the seasonal cleaning of equipment that is taking place around Wisconsin right now. Nine courses steam clean their machinery. Seven use high pressure equipment with soap dispensing capability. Three golf courses reported soap, water and elbow grease.

One thing was clear from this survey—Wisconsin golf course superintendents believe that clean equipment is important. It not only looks better while in use on the course, but it seems to run better, as well.

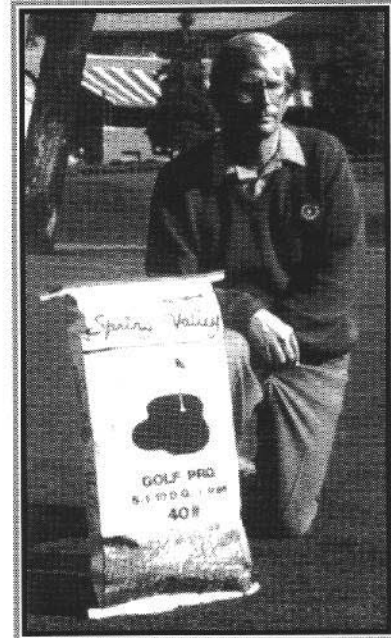
Apparently, the old saw "cleanliness is next to godliness" holds true for golf course equipment as well as for nearly anything else.

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