

## Good Equipment Maintenance Insures Getting A Job Done Efficiently, Cheaply

It takes good equipment to get a job done efficiently. As a golf course superintendent you have the responsibility to purchase, maintain and protect thousands of dollars worth of mowers, tractors and other turf maintenance equipment.

Purchasing equipment is always a difficult and demanding task. Assuming you need a new piece of equipment, how do you go about obtaining it?

First, define the job you want done. Determine specific job requirements — if it is spraying, will you need a hand sprayer or a boom sprayer?

Second, compare how long it now takes to do this job with whatever method or machine you are using, to how long it will take with the new piece of equipment.

Third, list the equipment's life expectancy and safety features. Make sure it meets your specifications as well as legal regulations.

Fourth, give an approximate cost. Most new equipment carries a high initial cost. But the long-term savings — and a better looking course resulting from timely maintenance — will make the purchase worthwhile. Fit a machine to the job and to the economics of your situation.

You can learn about new equipment by attending equipment shows, such as

GCSAA's International Turfgrass Conference and Show, by reading professional literature and by visiting your local equipment dealers. The latter is more time-consuming but provides you important knowledge of the equipment you are buying and the people selling it to you.

Always ask for a demonstration. Ask questions to learn about a machine's drawbacks as well as its potentials. Keeping up with the latest equipment is a must for the conscientious superintendent.

Equipment maintenance is a year-round job. It should start the day you buy the piece. At that time, you should make sure you get a service manual that lists all parts and has instructions on how to make repairs. You also need to know what services will be performed by the seller and the details of your guarantee.

When you buy a piece of equipment, it is a good idea to make a 3-inch by 5-inch index card on which you can record the equipment's identification number, date and location of purchase, cost and maintenance performed on the machine in later months. This card can be a valuable ready reference for the superintendent, especially as it applies to insurance and depreciation schedules.

Another factor to consider when buying or maintaining a piece of equipment is to be aware of who will be operating that equipment. A careless driver on a tractor will decrease its life expectancy and increase maintenance repairs and costs. It should be remembered also that a machine's cost is related to the time that it will be used. You can buy a \$200 mower to trim the grass around a sand trap or you can buy a \$75 mower to do the same job. No matter which mower you buy, the housing will be severely eaten by the sand. It may be wiser to buy the cheaper mower and replace it as it wears out than to buy a more expensive mower that will require a larger initial cash outlay and still need the same maintenance as a cheaper mower. Expensive equipment does not mean it's the best. Shop around to determine what fits your needs and your budget — then determine what is best for you.

An important part of equipment maintenance is proper storage. Your machines should be protected from weather and the destructive effects of cold and heat. Depending on which part of the country you are in, storage may play a bigger part of maintenance repairs and costs than use.

Call US  
for the best  
in Turf Equipment.  
The KROMER CO  
612-472-4167



- \*HAHN Self Propelled Gang Mowers, Greensmowers, Aeriators
- \*MYERS Sprayers
- \*SMITHCO Red Rider, Trucksters, Sprayers Trap Rakes
- \*HOWARD 48" to 82" Rotary Mowers
- \*HECKENDORN 36" to 88" Rotary Mowers
- \*TURF-VAC Leaf Vacuums
- \*ROSEMAN Gang Mowers
- \*DIADEM Fertilizer Spreader
- \*LONG Diesel Tractors
- \*TEX. REF. Tire Seal
- \*WD-40 Preservative
- \*HOLDER Diesel Tractors

### KROMER CO

3455 County Road 44, Mound, Mn. 55364  
TELEPHONE 612-472-4167

#### NEW FUNGICIDE FOR DUTCH ELM DISEASE

A new product manufactured by Merck & Co. has been registered for use in Dutch Elm Disease control by the EPA.

"ARBOTECT 20-S" helps prevent the disease and also helps to control the disease in newly-infected trees, i.e. less than five percent crown damage.

"ARBOTECT 20-S" is approximately one-half the price of Lignasan (based on technical material). "ARBOTECT 20-S" is distributed by TURF SUPPLY COMPANY.

## ARBOTECT™ 20-S

### FUNGICIDE

### For Dutch Elm Disease

TURF SUPPLY COMPANY  
2970 DODD ROAD  
ST. PAUL, MN. 55121  
(612) 454-3106