

on the importance of syringing to lower the temperature of the turfgrass from going into stress. The eye appealing talk by Mr. Bidwell on what flowers can do for you on your golf course, clubhouse and club entrance area and the impression it leaves on people. Dr. Larsen's re-emphasizing the point on not applying the same chemical back to back in order to prevent disease resistance to the chemical. Even with the newer and longer acting chemicals, don't get yourself in trouble as happened with that of Benomyl overuse and abuse. And finally Don Herfort's talk on the do's and don't's of designing a new green. A special thanks goes out to all the speakers; Don Lindblad and his staff at Majestic Oaks for another fine meal and facility; our session chairpeople, Chris Hague, Hazeltine, and Scott Hoffman, Madden's. With over 180 served for lunch (that's 30 more than last year) it's a credit to our committees and association as a whole that the educational seminars are so well arranged and attended.

Coming addition in the HOLE NOTES, if all goes well, will be a "Question and Answer" section. Questions submitted will be answered by the experts. No matter what your question is, write it down, no names, send it in (I'll tell you where next issue) and we'll answer it as soon as possible.

**COMING MEETINGS:**

- April 15: New Prague Golf Club,  
Scott Proshok and Bob Adams,  
hosts
- May 13: River Falls Golf Club,  
Scott Ainsworth, host
- June 19: Turf Expo
- June 30: Annual Picnic
- July 8: Northland Country Club,  
Mike Netzel, host
- Aug. 12: Island View Country Club,  
Mark Poppitz, host
- Sept. 9: Guest Day Scramble at Hazeltine  
National, Chris Hague, host
- Oct. 7: Golden Valley Country Club  
Mike Olson, host

**NEW TRENDS IN TURF  
MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT**

**PART 1**

by JAMES KAUFMAN  
MTI DISTRIBUTING COMPANY

A subject such as this usually invites the reader to anticipate miracle products and sensational solutions to the everyday job. Advancement in technology is rather rapid when you consider it in 50 year increments. But please keep in mind, the process in bringing to market, machines that are better than 10 and 5 years ago, is a slow painstaking one. This article will discuss a variety of maintenance considerations and what better products may be available for handling them more effectively.

**WEIGHT**

Lighter weight and less compaction is a turf man's goal for almost any piece of equipment. Recognizing this, industry will make improvements through new design and materials, resulting in less overall size, and with less weight being the trend. Reduced ground pressure (pounds per square inch) will come about through lighter weight and higher strength materials, lighter weight engines, and the judicious use of floatation type tires.

**NOISE**

There has been a long term trend to quieter products. The European market is most noise sensitive and has led the world in low noise design. The standards for privacy will become more strict as the consumer environmental concern marches ahead. Noise suppression will evolve with more attention paid to the multiple sources of noise. As an example, of a rotary mowers total machine noise, at least as much noise comes from the blade as comes from the engine exhaust. One hears the loudest sound, while much of the other contributing noises are subordinated. The internal parts of an engine (valves), etc., plus transmissions all add to the total noise impact. Considerable art exists today in tuning noise to a certain tone; thereby lessening its impact. Even though the decibel rating may be higher, the tone of the

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noise is sometimes more important. As these specialized areas of attention progress, the customer's expectations and demands rise. Last year's standards becomes next year's minimums. Noise technology is better understood today than ten years ago, and will contribute to quieter running products as industry progresses.

RELIABLE - DURABLE

The turf industry in general is becoming more aware and more demanding for quality, reliability and durability. The competitive aspects of the market bring a greater focus on this subject and the end users will have a greater choice of products in a quality range. One category that demonstrates this upward trend in quality is the mid-sized rotaries, 32" to 52" walk behind units. These products today have become very sophisticated, including fingertip steering. A significant upgrade in the power plants on these products makes them very durable, performing jobs as well as products that are several thousand dollars higher in cost. The trend will continue to upgrade the life hour length of engines and machines.

CONTINUED IN MAY ISSUE

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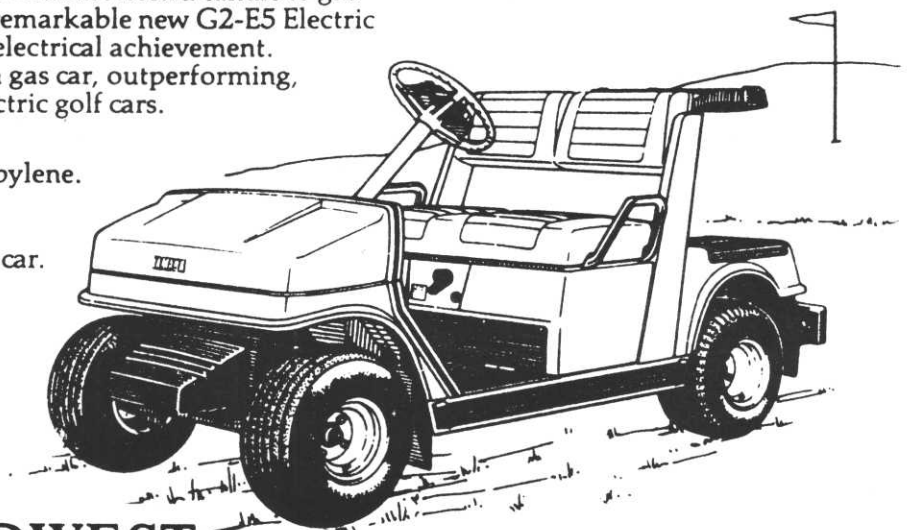
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