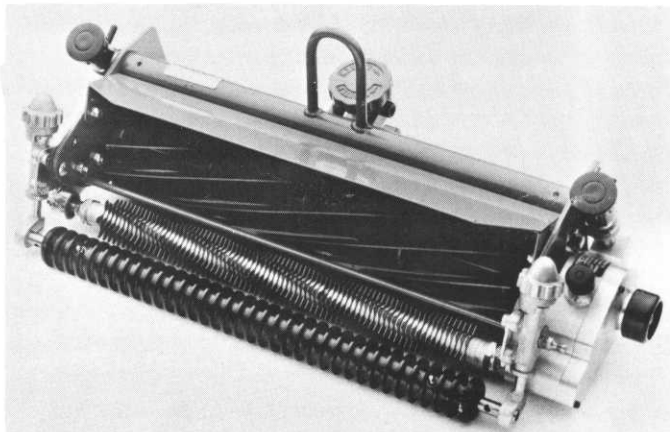


TORO INTRODUCES GROOMING REEL FOR GREENS

The Toro Company has introduced a new grooming reel for golf courses. A company spokesman said this new Greensmaster 3000 accessory is the most universal tool available to superintendents and allows more consistency in greens maintenance, truer ball roll and healthier turf.



The new Toro grooming reel operates similarly to a verti-cutter and limits thatch build-up and runner growth but, more importantly, its correct application promotes vertical and upright growth through its more frequent use at a lighter depth setting. This results in healthier turf that better endures stress periods.

Two grooming reel models are offered to accommodate a wide variety of growing conditions and customer needs. The model with 1/4-inch blade spacing is recommended for the fast growth periods of spring and early summer, while the model with 3/4-inch blade spacing is recommended for the slower growth periods of late summer and fall.

For additional information, contact Commercial Division at MTI Distributing Co., 14900 21st Avenue North, Plymouth, MN 55441. Phone 612/475-2200.

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BACKLAPPING REEL MOWERS FOR PRECISE CUT KEEPS TURF ATTRACTIVE

Frequent grass cutting with a sharp, well-adjusted reel-type mower is one of the factors in creating and maintaining attractive turf.

Proper watering, seeding, fertilizing, as well as fungicides, weed killers, and insecticides, are needed for top quality turf.

Each of these problems is a symptom of incorrectly sharpened and adjusted reel mowers, according to the turf care specialists.

Backlapping of reel mowers with a quality pre-mixed reel sharpening compound will help avoid these problems and save time and money for turf care professionals.

Pull gang mowers, and hydraulic power driven reel mowers create a scissor-like action between the reel blades and the bed knife. Properly ground and adjusted, this reel action slices grass cleanly, leaving no torn or jagged edges.

It is the raw and torn edges on grass that takes on a brown appearance, no matter how well the turf is otherwise cared for. These jagged tips also allow a greater opportunity for fungus and other diseases to attack the turf.

Grinding and lapping are complimentary steps in sharpening a reel mower.

Although there has been much debate, relief grinding seems to be recommended by more experts than flat grinding. Better adjustment, closer cutting action plus longer life for bed knives is the reason for favoring relief grinding.

A ground, reassembled, and adjusted reel mower will cut fairly well. However, backlapping will improve the cutting action by removing nicks and high spots from the knives. A perfect mating between blades and the bed knife is created to cleanly slice off grass.

Many grounds care specialists backlap their reel mowers after every cutting to insure the sharpest blades. The few minutes it takes each day for backlapping is time well spent for healthier grass.

Grinding is generally done twice a year.

There are major drawbacks to regrinding more often. 1) Grinding is time consuming for the personnel and keeps grounds care equipment out of action. 2) A significant