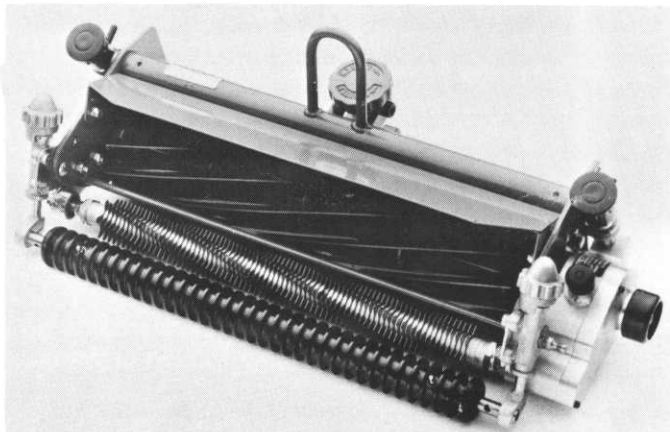


TORO INTRODUCES GROOMING REEL FOR GREENS

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

amount of metal is removed every time a reel mower is ground; thereby shortening blade life. 3) Regular grinding of reel blades is unnecessary with the easy-to-use pre-mixed and biodegradable reel sharpening compounds now available across the country.

In contrast to grinding, lapping with reel sharpening compounds takes very little time and removes very little metal from the blades.

Pre-mixed lapping compounds offer several advantages over the varied combinations created by some turf care people.

The ready-to-use compounds provide a consistent composition using high quality grit and carrier. The labor costs and time spent in preparing dry grit mixtures as well as the potential or variability in combining ingredients are all eliminated when compounds are used.

Various grades of pre-mixed reel sharpening compounds are available: 50 grit for heavy-duty lapping, 80 grit for regular lapping on fairway mowers, 120 grit for green and tee mowers, 180 grit for extra sharpness, and 220 grit for super fine honing.

The key benefit from lapping is extreme sharpness. A much more precise fit between reel blades and the bed knife can be obtained.

Backlapping with ready-to-use compounds to complete a grinding job, or to renew the cutting edges after use requires minimal set-up time and work. Specialists using compounds recommend the following basic steps...always being careful to keep your fingers and hands away from all moving parts.

1) Set the reel turning backwards. Hydraulic driven reels can be run in reverse, while wheel friction driven reels



Use of a backlapping machine (lower right) allows the reel of a wheel friction driven mower to rotate backwards. A reel sharpening compound should be applied across the entire width of the blades while they are rotating.

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After the blade assembly spins quietly and final adjustments have been made, flush the reel sharpening from the unit. With safe, biodegradable compounds, the rinse water can enter sewage and drainage systems without fear of pollution.

must be mounted on a backlapping machine. A relatively slow speed (between 100 to 150 rpms) is recommended so that the compound will not be thrown off the reel blades as they turn.

2) Adjust the bed knife from both sides to make even contact with the reel blades.

3) Apply a reel sharpening compound using a two-inch paint brush to the blades as they are turning. Move the brush from side to side along the reel to spread the sharpening compound the full width of the blades. After application allow the unit to run backwards until the reel is quiet.

4) While the unit is turning, flush the reel with water from a hose to remove all abrasive grit. The exclusive biodegradable formula of Clover compounds makes this step especially easy since there is no need to worry about the introduction of harmful materials into the local water table or sewage system.

5) Turn off the lapping machine. Spin the reel backwards by hand and adjust for a very light uniform contact between reel blades and bed knife. When spun by hand, the reel should rotate two or three revolutions before stopping.

6) Slowly turn the reel forward and make any additional

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fine adjustment so a piece of paper will be sheared along the entire width of the bed knife by every blade, being careful not to touch the cutting edges with fingers.

The following is a typical sharpening program for reel mowers in medium service that has been recommended by the specialists.

1) At the beginning of the season and in the middle of the season, relief grind blades on a professional grinding machine.

2) Backlap the blades after each of these grindings and every mowing session to keep the cutting edges keen and sharp.

This type of regular lapping program will prolong the life of mower reels, prevent downtime and provide a consistent, razor-sharp cutting action. Turf will remain healthier and be more resistant to attack from diseases.



NEW SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE NAMED

The MGCSA is pleased to announce the new members of the Harold Stodola Scholarship committee. The members are:

Fred Anderson, CGCS
Dale Caldwell, CGCS
Tom Fischer, CGCS
Mike Leitner
Doug Mahal, CGCS

The scholarship is a one year grant to qualified applicants engaged in turfgrass management or technical programs. Contact these men for more information and applications forms.

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