

GUEST EDITORIAL - FUEL CONSERVATION IN GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE

I would be less than honest if I told you I thought there was a fuel crisis. Shortage yes, crisis no. But forgetting my personal feelings and just in case I should be wrong, it behooves us all to plan and incorporate techniques in which we can conserve energy. We owe this to our employers, ourselves and to posterity.

While looking over last year's operation here at Chantilly and planning ahead for 1974, I have jotted down a few ways in which maybe I could save energy and in turn save money. I share them with you in hopes you will share your ideas with me.

1. Let unused areas of rough grow. Dr. Fred Grau has been advocating this as a refuge for wildlife and as a place where wild plants and flowers might grow. A side benefit is that it would save energy.
2. Cut fairways and roughs less frequently. Even one time less per week would certainly help.
3. Plan trips to your suppliers so that you make the "rounds" and do not have to make individual trips. It won't hurt to let that "red man" see a little "orange" or vice versa.
4. Fertilize greens and tees in the evenings prior to a night you intended to water anyway and kill two birds with one stone, i.e. watering greens and watering in fertilizer.
5. In purchasing road use vehicles for the golf course, buy either four (4) or six (6) cylinder vehicles with a manual shift.
6. Plan your routine job functions on the golf course so that one man making one trip around the golf course

can accomplish more than one task. For instance: One man can change cups, tee markers, pick up trash and service ball washers all in one operation.

7. Irrigate prudently: Water that is running off the greens, tees and fairways and not going into the soil is wasted for irrigation purposes.
8. In securing employees, particularly summer help, try to hire men or women who live in near proximity to each other and make car pooling a condition of employment. If unemployment continues to rise as predicted, superintendents should be able to be more selective in filling job openings.
9. Keep pneumatic tires inflated to the proper air pressure.
10. Keep carburetors on all equipment properly adjusted and air filters clean.
11. At lunch hour, have employees leave their machines in the field (out of the line of play, of course), and "scooter pool" it into the maintenance building.
12. Do not carry extra weight on any maintenance vehicle.
13. Maintain temperature levels in maintenance building between 60 and 65 degrees.
14. Take soil tests frequently and apply *only* the fertilizer nutrients that re needed in the soil. For example, don't apply a fertilizer that contains phosphorous if your soil is already sufficiently high in that nutrient just because it happens to be in the analysis you are accustomed to using.
15. Curtail the use of any unnecessary lighting.

In looking back over this list, with the possible exception of point #2, we have not reduced our level of maintenance, we have only increased our efficiency. Isn't that the name of the game for the golf course superintendent?

Virgil Robinson, Jr.

