



# MOWING EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

By Michael Bladon

excerpt from a *Machinery for Turf* course

## 1st

Carefully read Service/Operators Manual  
Engine and Mower section

### Important Functions of Maintenance

- a) daily checks
- b) lubrication
- c) adjustments
- d) training of operators

#### 1. Daily Checks

##### Check for Loose Nuts and Bolts

- if ignored - damaged
- holes enlarged, elongated - vibrations
- studs and fasteners - when lost, invariably between bedknife and reel

##### Check Belts and Chains

- examine belts for grease, grass and dirt
- check belt adjustment and tension
- ensure no slippage of belt
- chains - check alignment, tension, excessive wear
- clean - remove, kerosene

##### Cleaning Mowers

- clean mowers days end with low pressure hose/air
- high pressure water - rust in bearings
- grease machine - force cut water

##### Proper Storage

- dry place - raised flooring
- keep from flammable materials

#### 2. Lubrication

##### Engine Lubrication

- inspection of engine daily
- crankcase oil - inspect mornings

- change oil after 20-24 hours of operation
- oil filters - inspect weekly - not air hose

##### Zerk Fittings

- operators manual - fittings daily care
- grease and grass
- bearings with seals
- too much pressure - damage

##### Checking Great Cases

- once - twice a season
- correct levels - lubrication
- remove oil level plugs - check

#### 3. Adjustments

##### Follow Factory Recommendations

- manual - adjustment procedures
- engineers - designed - drew up procedures
- too few read manuals
- savings - time and money

##### Correct Tools

- money saver - good tools
- bolts sheared - wrenches too large
- pliers and screwdrivers
- files for nicks - proper use
- penetrating oil - patience

##### Weather Conditions

- temperature and reel type mower settings
- mowing - 15C (60F)
- noon - 26.6C (80F)
- reel expands - causes binding
- back off adjusting screws
- crease paper - 0-005" thick

##### Regular Adjustments

- specific times
- first thing in the morning/after lunch
- part of operator's schedule

#### 4. Training the Operator

##### Important - Very Scarce

- supervisors - have a duty to school - in operation and care, owners manuals - study and follow see it is done!
- Test drive equipment where damage is not a problem*

##### Equipment Investment Is - Large

- imperative - operate and adjust correctly - recognize problems before major repairs

##### Remove Debris - Costly Damage

- paper picked - prior to mowing
- sprinklers low - hit with mowers
- broken stakes - inspect area

#### 5. Proper Mowing Speed

##### Excessive Reel/Ground Speed

- reels lift off turf
- uneven wear - excessive heat - bedknife improper adjustment
- breakdown - parts adjoining reel bedknife
- quality of cut - frequency of clip not equal to ground speed

#### 6. Amount of Noise

- unusual noises - check contact between bedknife and reel
- hit object - shut off and check
- TORO - effective cutting unit - sound of air expelled from hose
- no buzzing, clicking or metallic sound from unit

#### 7. Grass Lubrication

- grass cut between bedknife and reel - lubricant - less heat buildup
- disengage units when travel occurs - (park to park)

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