

# Energy Saving Suggestions For Turfgrass Managers

By James A. Fischer  
The Toro Company

*Editor's note: The following was presented by James A. Fischer, director of marketing, Turf Products Division, Outdoor Power Equipment Group, The Toro Company, before the Ohio Turfgrass Conference, Dec. 5, 1974.*

Wellhead prices in the oil-rich Arab countries have increased from \$3 to over \$12 per barrel in less than a year. Early in 1974, fuel prices almost tripled and fuel was scarce. While the situation has eased somewhat, many government and industry experts feel that winter and spring will again bring shortages and higher prices.

Turf managers can effectively save fuel by following these tips.

## Equipment:

- Maintain good contact with fuel suppliers. Ask for recommendations of your storage capacity needs. Firm up contracts and prices.
- Fuel costs represent two to three percent of your total budget. Should fuel prices again increase, major savings will accrue through efficient labor force management.
- Evaluate equipment against the tasks to be done.
- Tune and maintain all equipment in accordance with owner's manuals and establish preventive maintenance procedures.
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## Facilities:

- Lower working temperatures in office and shop.
- Minimize interior and exterior lighting.
- Seek alternative heating methods and do not heat or cool non-essential areas.
- Consider using insulation throughout the facility.

## Turfgrass:

- Review all cultural practices and techniques.
- Test soils to determine pH and nutrient levels and review fertilizer programs and products.
- Evaluate watering and mowing schedules — frequency, timing and location.
- Correct all drainage problem areas.
- Evaluate adaptation and use of turfgrass varieties you now have versus "new" improved selections.
- Use fertilizer, water and chemicals efficiently.
- Use pesticides wisely for control of pests, weeds, insects and diseases.
- Evaluate height of cut in relation to type of mowing equipment.

## Your People:

- Review all tasks and establish priorities.
- Schedule equipment use to attain maximum efficiency.
- Retrain operators on mowing techniques, equipment operations and adjustments.
- Combine tasks, eliminate non-essential travel.
- Stock high use parts and use United Parcel Service for emergency deliveries.
- Form car pools for transportation to and from work and professional meetings.



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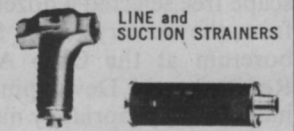
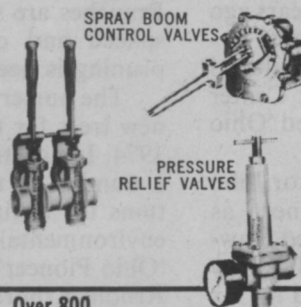
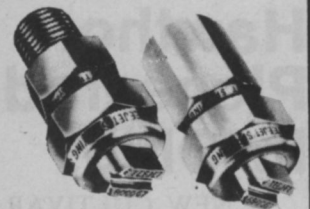
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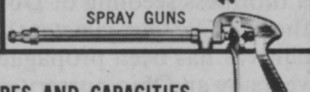
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