

Shooting par for maintenance equipment

As in golf, attention to detail means success in the maintenance game.

Today's golf courses are constantly placing greater demands on the superintendent trying to maintain top playing quality. To meet these demands, proper administration, programming, sufficient budgets, manpower and responsibility are necessary in addition to modern equipment.

A PGA report appearing in the newsletter of the Golf Course Superintendents of New England suggests a certain variety and quantity of equipment is necessary to provide adequate care to the majority of 18-hole courses, depending on the degree of maintenance (see table).

The report broke the equipment into three sections: greens and tees; fairways and roughs; and general equipment. Under each category, a list of equipment and quantity was provided. Lists for the three categories included mowers, aerators, thatchers, fertilizer spreaders and more.

Other recommendations

The report also addressed a number of other equipment categories. For miscellaneous hand equipment, the report recommended getting axes, burners, crow bars, a duster, cup cutter, wheelbarrow, ladder, sod edgers, sod lifters, shovels, rakes, funnels, a spade, picks, forks, jacks, pruners, tree saws, animal traps, pumps, gas cans, scales, pullers, hoses, bamboo poles, soil testers and a soil probe.

The report suggests various repair tools should be handy for work on all power equipment, plumbing drains, electrical equipment, sewers, roadways, cement and concrete, water systems, painting and wood working repairs, etc.

The shop should also be equipped with tools, the report stressed. Such tools as a lapping machine, air



No, it's not an army maneuver, it's a sampling of the maintenance equipment and staff required for daily upkeep of five golf courses at The Resort Hotels, World of Palm-Aire, in Pompano Beach, Florida. Some 14 tractors, 8 trucks and 50 mowers of various types are required to keep the resort's 600-700 acres playable. Palm-Aire's superintendant of golf courses, Harvey Linderman (in center of photo) surveys his \$500,000 inventory.

GREENS AND TEES

6 to 8 putting green mowers	1 power spiker
2 power aerators	1 power sprayer (fungicides)
1 vertical mower	1 proportioner
1 power drag mat	2 rotary fertilizer spreaders
1 power top dresser	2 triplex mowers
1 power thatcher	

FAIRWAYS AND ROUGHS

2 seven-gang hydraulic tractors and mowers	1 power sprayer (herbicides)
1 fairway aerator	1 rotary fertilizer spreader
1 fairway thatcher	1 five-gang mower (roughs)
1 fairway sweeper	1 three-gang roller

GENERAL EQUIPMENT

1 or 2 dump body golf tractors	1 power stump cutter
2 general construction PTO tractors	1 power soil shredder
1 jeep, pickup truck, etc.	1 power hand sweeper
1 dump truck (5 ton min.)	2 power leaf blowers
1 snow plow	1 water ballast roller
1 front-end loader and backhoe	6 rotary trimmer mowers
1 power sod cutter	3 hand trimmer mowers
1 power saw	2 general purpose power and reel mowers
	2 or 3 gas powered runabouts

compressor, steam cleaner, table saw, grinders, vises and work benches are recommended.

Irrigation equipment is of course necessary, with each course determining the pumping station and number of heads necessary.

The newsletter also touched on a few necessities for a maintenance building. The building should have a superintendent's office, storage rooms for herbicides, fungicides and fertilizer, and sufficient storage space for all equipment. An additional storage building, the report states, is essential for storing and mixing top-dressing material, which should be kept dry. The report recommends storing at least a two-year supply at all times.

Maintenance staffing

For an average 18-hole course in the Northeast, the report recommends a year-round superintendent and assistant superintendent, a year-round mechanic and two year-round laborers.

Three laborers should be hired at the outset of the outside maintenance program, the report suggests, and should be carried through the end of the fall maintenance program. In addition, three laborers should be hired as summer help.

Proper training of all employees is necessary for proper equipment operation and maintenance program implementation.

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