

## Increase Your Trimmer Productivity...



...with the **SPEED-FEED® 450** and the **NEW SPEED-FEED® 375**

- Re-load in 30 Seconds
- Patented Bump-feed
- Tough & Durable
- Adapter Kits Available

Align arrow on knob with eyelet.



Step 1

Feed trimmer line through eyelet.



Step 2

Re-load by turning knob on head.



Step 3

# shindaiwa

See the online demo at [www.shindaiwa.com](http://www.shindaiwa.com)

## Get a Grip

TECHNOLOGY

KEEPIN' IT FRESH

While all stabilizers are generally beneficial, you need to pick the right one.



## Yes, fuel stabilizers

BY ALLEN SPENCE

**F**uel stabilizer: What is it and why is it important to me? You have read several articles where I have mentioned fuel stabilizer and told you that you should be

using it. Now I want to give you some reasons why.

**1. Not all gasolines are equal.** While they all come from the same base stock (crude oil), and the end result is similar, they vary. These differences are in the additives. Some additives clean; some protect; and others serve as octane boosters. And all these additives change to other compounds over time. Fuel stabilizer prevents that from happening.

**2. Gasoline loses its potency over time.** Old gasoline tends to turn into a varnish-type substance that coats everything it comes into contact with. This leads to gummed-up fuel lines, valves, carburetors, fuel tanks, in short, everything in the fuel system. I have seen equipment where every one of those items had to be cleaned or replaced because of old fuel.

**3. Moisture and corrosion are prevented.** Some service stations have more moisture in their fuel than others. Some moisture is caused by condensation. This is worse in

some areas than others. Moisture leads to corrosion and improper engine operation. Fuel stabilizer will counteract the effects of moisture. Most handheld equipment with 2-stroke-cycle engines can be adversely affected by as little as 5% contamination.

**4. Most equipment manufactures recommend it.** As a matter of fact, most of them sell it. A quick Internet search for fuel stabilizer shows every major manufacture recommends the use of fuel stabilizer. Most of them offer it for sale from their Web stores. Marine equipment to motorcycle manufactures and just about everything in between 2- and 4-cycle manufactures of outdoor power equipment included. These companies spend lots of money on research and development. So, when they recommend a certain product, I heed their advice.

There are differences in fuel stabilizers. Some are stabilizers only; some are cleaners also. There is a big difference in price from one brand to another. You need to check the emissions laws in your state before purchasing any. This could prevent purchasing a product you shouldn't use.

— The author is turf equipment management instructor at Hinds Community College in Raymond, MS. Contact him at [haspence@hindscc.edu](mailto:haspence@hindscc.edu).