

TURF TWISTERS

TIME IS RUNNING OUT

Question: We want to perform preventive maintenance on our equipment based on the hours it has run. Unfortunately, not all equipment comes with hour clocks, and on those that do, the clocks seldom last the life of the machine. Any suggestions other than buying new, expensive clocks? (Kansas)

Answer: Almost every shop has a time clock for keeping track of employee hours. Make cards for each piece of equipment you want to monitor and have the operator punch the card when the machine leaves the shop and as it's returned. Your mechanic also could punch the back of the card whenever he works on the equipment to monitor how much down-time occurs with the machine. The type of repair performed also can be recorded on the card next to the down-time.

TO INVEST IN TOMORROW —

Question: We have hundreds of deciduous and evergreen trees on our golf course that pose year-round cleanup problems. I am having trouble convincing the Green Committee at our low-budgeted golf course to invest in modern cleanup equipment. Is this equipment justifiable? (Oregon)

Answer: Proper cleanup equipment is absolutely justifiable on any golf course with numerous trees. In many cases, multiple sweepers and tractor-mounted blowers are recommended. However, the addition of a large-capacity sweeper and tractor-mounted blower would do wonders in minimizing hand labor. These labor hours can be transferred to more important areas of your operation.

JOIN THE AUDUBON COOPERATIVE SANCTUARY PROGRAM

Question: During the past few years, our club has been interested in creating a more natural look on our golf courses. We have done some work with wildflowers and native grasses. Do you have any other suggestions? (Delaware)

Answer: Absolutely! The USGA, in cooperation with the Audubon Society of New York State, is promoting the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for golf courses. Participating golf courses work constructively to incorporate wildlife and resource conservation projects throughout the golf course. Contact the Audubon Society of New York State (518/767-9051) and they can provide all of the details.