

# Trail Blazing

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*Wire wheel attachments serve as excellent replacements for standard edging blades. The flexibility of the wire wheel produces a clean, uniform cut when edging asphalt cart paths.*

FOR THOSE OF YOU who remember your childhood, how many times did your parents stand in front of the television set, threatening you with capital punishment if you did not clean your room? Thankfully, now that we are adults, those good housekeeping skills inherited from our parents can be invaluable because they reflect on our personal image and professional abilities.

At times, it is difficult for superintendents to be "good housekeepers" because available tools are ill-suited for the task at hand. One such instance concerns the edging of asphalt cart paths, where the jagged path edge prevents a standard edging blade from making a clean break in the sod. As a result, the sod can look as though it was carelessly ripped apart by the maintenance staff. Although this is a difficult task, ignoring the need to edge asphalt

paths can lead to the premature decay of these paths.

Frank Roll, of Industry Hills Golf Course, City of Industry, California, and Dr. Harold "Chip" Howard, of Sun City West Recreational Centers, Sun City West, Arizona, have come up with two interesting tips to lessen the burden of asphalt path edging. Although both might agree that the best tip would be to install concrete as opposed to asphalt, this is not always possible due to local soil conditions and budgetary constraints.

The first turf tip, by Frank Roll, involves replacing the steel edging blade with a heavy-duty, full cable, twist wire wheel to improve the contact between the asphalt and the edger. The flexibility of the wire wheel makes it possible to remove the sod and soil between the jagged edges of the asphalt, thereby producing a clean, uniform cut. Most turf supply companies do not

distribute industrial hardware, but heavy-duty wire wheels should be available through one of several supply catalogs, such as the McMaster-Carr catalog. When purchasing a wire wheel, remember to pay attention to the shaft diameter so that a special linkage will not be required.

The second tip, by Dr. Harold "Chip" Howard, is a follow-up to clean edging. For controlling new encroachment, a specialized spray boom is attached to the driver's side of a utility cart, allowing the applicator to apply a narrow band of glyphosate (Roundup). In practice, the application is extremely precise, with very little drift onto the adjacent turf.

Although blazing new trails in asphalt maintenance may never earn any good housekeeping awards, I hope these two turf tips will help make life a little easier next season.



*(Above) Ignoring the need to edge cart paths leads to premature asphalt deterioration and gives golfers the impression that the maintenance staff has little regard for good housekeeping.*



*(Left) Once cart paths have been neatly edged, they can be conveniently maintained with precise herbicide applications. (This picture demonstrates how the apparatus works — it does not necessarily show how an actual application is made.)*