



LasTec's Model 721X Articulator®

Sonata in the Grass

CGSA's corps of superintendents make maintenance maestros

Rrrrr, buzz, snip, whump, clang — the heady notes of the sunny season fill Canada's golf courses with a dreamy symphony of sound. At least to superintendents the clamor of a fleet of greensmowers resonates like the best of Bach, Beethoven and Bacharach. Since upkeep practices are the number-one concern of turf management professionals, it's wholly appropriate that *GreenMaster* continue its tradition of maintenance coverage by publishing the experiences of three of CGSA's finest. Printed below, their words should be treasured like the otherworldly notes of a classic concerto. Oh, yeah.

Doug Meyer
(Cedarbrook Golf & Country Club)
During July and August at Cedarbrook, we spend about an hour each morning removing dew from all the greens, tees

and fairways with a long rubber hose pulled between two utility vehicles. This helps the turf to dry out more quickly, which in turn lowers the incidence of disease. Removing the morning's dew has led to a 30 per cent reduction in fungicide application while still preserving healthy turf. The drier turf also facilitates mowing. Clippings don't clump as much and the cut is cleaner. Members, too, appreciate the drier conditions underfoot early in the morning. One important note: make certain that your turf is healthy to begin with, or you risk spreading mycelium from hole-to-hole.

The large rear rollers made excellent squeegees.

Ian Martinusen
(Breezy Bend Country Club)
During the 1992 Manitoba Open (a Canadian Tour event) we experienced heavy rain which washed out the Pro-Am event. How were we going to get ready for the first round? We had 90 acres of casual water to remove, our site had about four feet of elevation to deal with, and the tour was set to tee off at 7:30 the next morning.

Our five- and seven-gang mowers became important tools. Because we had firm conditions for the tournament, we were able to tow our mowers (with the reels shut off) through the puddles

and pull the water to lower areas of play. The large rear rollers made excellent squeegees.

After the tournament proceeded with a lift-clean-and-place ruling for the fairways, the crew proceeded to the hospitality tent.

Pelino Scenna
(Burlington Golf and Country Club)
Our mild winter in southern Ontario resulted in an early start this year. Heavy rain and unseasonably warm temperatures prompted us to check under the covers in mid-February and actually mow four greens on March 3.

Despite the warm weather we kept our greens covered until March 27. Keeping the covers on until the last minute gave us very healthy, aggressively growing greens to begin the year. In addition, the covers gave us protection against pink snow mould as we had an eight-inch snowfall on March 21.

Our cleanup consisted of a sweeper, blowers, branch removal teams, a tractor-mounted spring-toothed dethatcher, and a dragmat. All fairways and roughs were raked with the dethatcher to make the grass stand up and to open any areas that were matted down. We also found the dethatcher useful as a rake to gather twigs. The blowers and sweeper then followed. The entire course was cleaned in five days.

Prior to opening, all of our bunkers were thoroughly raked and refilled with sand. New sand was added in small increments and tamped down to maintain firmness and consistency. ♪