

TIP O' THE MONTH

Winterizing Sprayers

By Stu Cavender

Like other turf machinery, sprayers need proper winterization. Here are some steps to follow. When doing so, remember to inspect the entire machine for any signs of wear. Replace

any worn or damaged parts.

Traction Unit

1. Thoroughly clean the traction unit and engine.
2. Check the tire pressure.
3. Check all fasteners for looseness; tighten as necessary.

4. Grease or oil all grease fittings and pivot points. Wipe up any excess lubricant.

5. Lightly sand and use touch-up paint on painted areas that are scratched, chipped or rusted.

6. Service the battery and cables as follows: (A) remove the battery terminals from the battery posts; (B) clean the battery, terminals and posts with a wire brush and baking soda solution; (C) coat the cable terminals and battery posts with petroleum jelly to prevent corrosion; (D) slowly recharge the battery every 60 days for 24 hours to prevent lead sulfurizing of the battery.

Engine

1. Drain the crankcase completely, and refill with recommended engine oil.

2. Run engine until completely out of gasoline, then restart and run on unleaded gasoline mixed with stabilizer for at least 10 minutes.

3. Check coolant protection.

4. Disconnect and remove battery.

5. Clean exterior surface of engine.

6. Leave spark plugs in holes, or seal spark plug holes with suitable threaded metal plugs.

7. Seal all openings in engine and accessories with weatherproof tape. Mask off all areas used for electrical contact.

8. Make sure all surfaces are dry, including ignition wiring, and all exterior surfaces of engine.

9. Thoroughly clean and service the air cleaner assembly.

10. Check the oil filler cap, gas cap and radiator cap to ensure they are all securely in place.

Spraying System

1. Flush pump and entire spraying system with water and tank cleaning agent. Drain pump and spray system completely. If using granule agents, you may need to remove and disassemble components in order to clean them satisfactorily.

2. Add a rust inhibiting antifreeze solution to the pump and recirculate through the system, coating the pump interior. Drain solution completely.

3. Remove coil assemblies from solenoid valves. Apply a light film of petroleum jelly or equivalent to the armatures. Reinstall coil assemblies on solenoid valves.

YOU COULD BE HONORED BY THE PROS!

Why not enter your baseball field in the **Beam Clay® Baseball Diamond of the Year Awards** contest? You need not be a customer, member, or subscriber; and there is no entry fee. You could be featured in **sportsTURF magazine** and receive an official awards plaque.

The Awards are sponsored by **Beam Clay®, sportsTURF magazine, and the Sports Turf Managers Assoc.**, in recognition of excellence and professionalism in maintaining outstanding, safe, professional quality baseball diamonds. Entries will be judged in three categories: professional diamonds; college diamonds; and school, municipal or park diamonds.

Send the information below to enter:

1. Age of baseball diamond (year of installation).
2. Geographic location (city and state).
3. Description of maintenance program.
4. Operating budget for baseball diamond.
5. Irrigation: None _____ Manual _____ Automatic _____
6. Total number of maintenance staff for field.
7. Does baseball field have lighting for night games?
8. Number of events on baseball diamond per year.
9. Types and number of events on diamond other than baseball?
10. How many months during the year is the field used?
11. Why you think this field is one of the best?
12. **IMPORTANT:** Send two sets of color slides or prints.

Deadline for entries: Entries must be postmarked no later than November 30. Selection of winners will be made by the Awards Committee of Four Major League Head Groundskeepers.

Mail entries to:
Beam Clay Awards
Kelsey Park
Great Meadows, NJ
07838



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Category Blast Service

Use this new Category Blast Service to get FREE information on the products or service categories listed below which you are planning to purchase within the coming nine months. You will receive information, and possibly other follow up contact, from appropriate companies advertised not just in this issue, but throughout the year in *sportsTURF*. Just circle the number(s) on the reader service card (opposite) corresponding to the product or service categories below and drop the card in the mail!

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|------|-----------------------------------|
| 9001 | Aerifiers |
| 9002 | Baseball field grooming equipment |
| 9003 | Drainage |
| 9004 | Fertilizer / soil amendments |
| 9005 | Field covers |
| 9006 | Field marking paint / equipment |
| 9007 | Infield mixes |
| 9008 | Irrigation supplies |
| 9009 | Mowers |
| 9010 | Seed |
| 9011 | Site amenities |
| 9012 | Sod |
| 9013 | Turf equipment |

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4. Check condition of spray hoses. Tighten all hose connections securely.
5. Lubricate boom pivot grease fittings and pivot points.

Follow other recommendations specified in your owner's manual.

The above comes from the Fall 1996 issue of A Patch of Green, the official publication of the greater Detroit Golf Course Superintendents Association.

If you have a tip to share, send it to sportsTURF, 68860 Perez Rd., Cathedral City, CA 92234.

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