

Equipment and Tools

"Quality will be remembered long after the price is forgotten."

HORT 2241

Equipment Investments

- ◆ Capital investments and important component in cost-effective management.
- ◆ Check with peers or individuals, rental agencies, repair shops who are in the landscaping business before selecting equipment
- ◆ Factors to consider:
 - Present and future cash assets to cover cost
 - Volume of present and future work needed
 - Selection of suitable size and power
 - Skill to operate and transport

Options for obtaining equipment

- ◆ Subcontracting
- ◆ Rental
- ◆ Lease
- ◆ Purchase

Subcontracting and Rental

- ◆ Skilled operator in subcontracting
- ◆ Transportation provided to the site
- ◆ Rentals may be newer models, heavy duty and guarantee to operate

Analyzing the Costs Before Making an Investment

- ◆ Price of new vs. value of old
- ◆ Projected loss of value in the next year from use and depreciation
- ◆ Operating costs per hour, based on the projected life cycle (hrs. of use)
- ◆ Projected repairs, down time, etc.
- ◆ Purchase or lease is base on 5 profitable years
- ◆ Use hours are dependant also on climate

Life Cycle Costs

- ◆ Initial purchase costs
- ◆ Operating and associated expenses
- ◆ Maintenance and repair costs

Tracking costs

- ◆ Documenting hours of use and costs
 - Hours of use
 - Maintenance and repairs
 - License, insurance, etc
 - Usage costs

Tracking costs

- ◆ Also include
 - Date purchased
 - Year of manufacture
 - Serial number
 - Make and model
 - Warranties and life expectancy
 - Former repair history
 - Depreciation schedule

Equipment records are important

- ◆ Budgeting
- ◆ Insurance purposes
- ◆ Tax purposes
- ◆ Cost efficiency of equipment

Minimizing down time

- ◆ Major service needed for equipment in off season
- ◆ Removal of dirt and grime is a daily process
- ◆ Minimize rust
- ◆ Properly organize and store equipment

Minimizing down time

- ◆ Change the oil every 25 operating hours
- ◆ Clean fuel, air (pleated or foam) and oil filters as recommended
- ◆ Use the proper fuel and fuel mix
- ◆ Remove and check spark plugs every 50 hours of use or at least once per year
- ◆ Check breaker points and adjust carburetor if needed

Equipment Life Expectancy

- ◆ Begin at the time equipment is put into service and keep repair records
- ◆ Tracking repairs can help determine when the equipment becomes more costly to keep operating with repairs than to replace it
- ◆ Records help plan for future equipment purchases and budget for cash flow requirements

Equipment Use and Safety

- ◆ Give employees proper training in using equipment
 - Explain – Demonstrate -Watch new employees as they demonstrate proper operation
- ◆ Work at a pace that allows you to keep your balance and not become worn out. (A tired operator is often a careless one.)
- ◆ Safety means knowing the equipment and understanding how to react to the actions of the machine

Equipment Use and Safety

- ◆ Keep tools stored and organized. Debris and clutter cause accidents.
- ◆ Use only enough pressure on the tool to accomplish the job.
- ◆ Wear the right safety equipment.
 - Gloves
 - Steel-toed shoes
 - Safety glasses
 - Ear protection
 - Dust masks and respirators