

Efficiencies in Turf and Landscape Management: A Case Study

Twenty-one Tips On Reducing Mowing Time

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Efficiency is doing things right; effectiveness is doing the right things.

~Peter Drucker

1. Be _____. This can make you a lot more money.
2. Observe what you're doing now.
3. Organize crews, trucks, lock ups, mechanics. Does it have a systematic flow?
4. Develop a plan by seeing the bigger picture. Stop the madness of putting out fires. We must be efficient to stay in business.
5. Daily short stand up meetings 2 minutes with crew leaders and crews.
6. Eliminate _____. Slower than one truck.
7. Get as many objects out of the way as possible. Signs, bollards, benches, picnic tables, stumps, pot holes, pallets.
8. Trim low hanging limbs.
9. Redesign bed areas to capture immovable objects.
10. Design _____ bed lines, so mowers can sweep through without stopping or backing up. Eliminate annoying turf strips, small turf isles where possible. Add tree rings for the trees health.
11. Raise the heights of the mowers in hot dry summers and in shady areas.
12. Mow in rows or circles, but *rotate weekly*.
13. Stop the practice of line trimming along all the turf edges
14. During academic breaks use an edger on all hard bed lines. Fewer windows broken.
15. Weed eater, no _____ the turf.

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16. Use an edger for hard and soft turf edges.
17. Develop and maintain a good turf weed program.
18. Apply growth regulators.
19. Manage irrigation, eliminating wet areas.
20. Pick up the trash before mowing.
21. Hire real _____.
22. Work with operators to develop regular safety checks and maintenance on equipment. Chart it: sharpen blades, check tire pressure, create a tag out system, listen for odd noises. (Landscape University)
23. Make training a normal procedure. Teach the standards. (Landscape University)
24. For non-mowing areas distribute pine straw or hardwood mulching.
25. Use mulching decks rather than side discharge.
26. Mow at 6:00 not 7:30.
27. Purchase equipment thoughtfully: Tractor vs. Zero turn - deck size matters.
28. Suit the turf to the location: Right turf in the right location.

We are all born ignorant, but one must work hard to remain stupid.
~Benjamin Franklin

Answer key 1. pro-active 6. Trailers 10. Sweeping 15. Scalping 21. Mechanics