

# **MARC Small Implement Maintenance Course**

**When performing any maintenance, safety should always be first! Please refer to MARC's Safety course for information regarding the safety precautions to be utilized when performing maintenance on any unit.**

**All compact tractors, zero turns, garden tractors etc. have a maintenance record sheet in the owner's manual.**

**This sheet gives the operator the recommended service needs based on the hours the unit has been run. If you do not have an owner's manual, you can download one on the internet.**

**There are normally numerous grease fittings {ZERK fittings} on any of the moving parts. These should be greased regularly. Regular greasing keeps the unit operating properly and extends the units wear life. Clean the top of the grease fitting prior to greasing with a small rag. This keeps dirt being forced into the fitting.**

**Check the oil prior to starting the engine every time you use the unit. Some engines have an automatic cut of switch to turn off the engine if the oil level is too low. Do not rely on this function. Regular checking will ensure the longevity of the engine.**

**The oil and filter should be changed every year, or as specified in the owner's manual.**

**If the unit has a hydraulic system, make sure you use the proper hydraulic oil as specified by the manufacturer. Failure to do so may cause damage to seals and a premature breakdown of the unit.**

**Correct tire pressure is important. Make sure the tire pressure is at the manufactures recommendation. The correct pressure is usually embossed in the side wall of the tire.**

**Sharp blades make a better cut and reduce the effort of the engine to cut the grass. Avoid stones etc. as they dull the blades.**

**The blades may be sharpened and or replaced. If you sharpen the blades try to keep them balanced. If the blades are not in balance a vibration may occur. This vibration will cause premature failure of seals and bearings. New blade replacement is recommended if this occurs.**

**Preventative maintance saves time and money.**

**When engaging the PTO on a lawn mower or tractor, always do so at a low RPM. If you engage at normal running speed you are putting undue strain on the electric clutch or internal PTO clutch causing damage to these items. They are also expensive to repair.**

**On machinery that run on gas {4 stroke} Keep gas fresh. Utilize a fuel stabilizer to keep the fuel from deteriorating and damaging the carburetor. Todays' gas has ethanol in it. Over time the seals and corrosive mixture of ethanol, gas and water damage the carburetor causing difficulty in starting the machine. This is especially important if the unit going to be stored for the winter.**

**On machinery that run on a mixture of gas and oil {2 stroke} it is important to utilize a fuel stabilizer. There is a product that comes premixed with stabilizer already in it. This keeps the fuel fresh for almost two years. Great for weed eaters, chain saws, hedge trimmers etc. This makes easy starting in the spring.**

**Diesel machines require an additive in their fuel also. This additive not only keeps the fuel fresh, it keeps sludge from building up in the**

**fuel system. This is important all year long but is especially useful during the cold winter months. There is also an additive for diesel engines to enable them to burn cleaner reducing pollutants.**

**Never let a diesel engine run out of fuel. In most cases the fuel system must be primed. This is sometimes time consuming. It is a lot easier to keep fuel in the tank.**

**All of these additives are available at almost any hardware or farm store.**

**Remember—All required maintenance is listed in your owner's manual!**

**There is a saying that when something fails the longer you keep using it and the louder it gets, the more it costs!!**