

MAKING A CLEAN SWEEP

Anyone who has maintained their own yard knows the work, effort and especially time involved in keeping up appearances. Raking and bagging leaves, pine needles and clippings can be a thankless chore. Multiply all that

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many times over and you'll begin to appreciate the task facing a golf course supervisor, not just once a week, but daily.

To keep 18 fairways and greens, trimmed, aerated and

free of debris demands constant attention and an array of specialized equipment.

Smithco, headquartered in Wayne, PA manufactures a line of machinery devoted to golf course maintenance; sprayers, bunker rakes, greens care equipment and a full line of sweepers. At their plant in Cameron, Wisconsin, Smithco West builds a versatile line of sweeping and vacuum equipment designed to meet requirements of golf course, parks and municipal grounds care maintenance. Speed and efficiency are key factors in Smithco's designs. Leaves, paper, soft drink bottles, grass clippings and aeration cores are a few examples of the materials that Smithco sweepers remove.

Smithco's Sweepstar 60, is a 31 horsepower, self propelled sweeper with a 60 inch rotating broom. Scott Taylor, Smithco's chief engineer explained that

the Sweepstar 60 is most commonly used for park maintenance where almost any type of debris is encountered. He noted that branches and wet leaves are commonplace in the fall and the system is designed to handle them as easily as grass clippings in the summer months.

The 60 inch broom is driven by an Ogura GT2-SC01 clutch. The clutch had to undergo extensive testing before acceptance on the Sweepstar 60. Scott Taylor noted that the clutch provides several advantages over a directly driven reel system. The sweeper is disengaged during transport mode or otherwise not required.

This reduces wear and tear on component parts and extends machine operating life. Fuel consumption is also reduced, a very important aspect of operating cost in this age of \$3.00 plus gasoline.



Ogura GT2-SC01

Disengaging the load also facilitates cold weather starts on diesel engine models.

Soon to be released is Smithco West's new Sweepstar V62, available with a combination



Smithco's Sweepstar 60



Smithco's Sweepstar V62

sweeper and vacuum with a working width of 62 inches in a self contained pull-behind package. The GT2-SC01 has been selected for this model as well. On this machine the broom fingers are designed to lift embedded materials up for vacuum collection. The clutch drives the impeller that acts as both a vacuum source and a mulching system, breaking down branches and chopping leaves and twigs before blowing them to the collection bin.

Ogura is proud to be associated with a company like Smithco and pleased that after rigorous testing Ogura quality passed all operational objectives. Smithco sweepers and Ogura clutches, another example of how everything about an Ogura clutch "works."