

## Advancing the Turfgrass Industry in New Jersey and the World



### NEW JERSEY **TURFGRASS** ASSOCIATION

#### **TURF TIP TIME #8 with the NJTA:**

#### **Bedbars Before Bedknives, Inspect Then Install**

When was the last time you inspected your bedbars before installing a new bedknife?

The bleak days of winter are the perfect time for turf managers to break down their reel mowers for grinding and sharpening. “Any oversights at this point can cause a poor quality of cut right out of the gate once the weather warms and the grass starts to grow again,” said Andy Berenty, a Product Support Specialist at Storr Tractor Company. To start each season on the right foot, he suggests that you inspect your bedbars anytime you install a new bedknife.

“Over time, bedbars can naturally become misshapen. They get twisted or bowed from excessive use and adjustments,” Andy explains. When replacing a bedknife, it is important to first remove all rust, scale, and corrosion from the bedbar surface and make sure the threads are clean. “If the bedbar shows measurable gaps, it may be time for replacement.”



Spotting bedbar issues is second nature for seasoned fleet managers like Paul Dobkowski at Morris County Country Club and Hank Reul at Panther Valley Country Club, who provided the examples shown above.

When bedknives are constructed, the manufacturer fastens the metal to a highly precise mounting bar at the factory and precision grinds the blade. “The moment you fasten the knife to the bar it takes on the shape of the bar, thus the reason for removing minor imperfections beforehand,” said Andy. “If the bar is warped, you will most likely need to grind an excessive amount of material off to *true* the knife.”



For a clean cut, every part of the reel assembly must align so that the reel and bedknife edges come together like a pair of scissors. In addition to keeping the cutting blades sharp, this includes cleaning, oiling, and inspecting the bedbar.

Inspecting bedbars on a leveling table (as pictured to the left) prior to bedknife installation can save you time, money, and aggravation in the long run. “It’s all about attention to detail. You can really see the areas of concern when placing the bars on a granite leveling table.”

It is ineffective to just replace the bedknife on a distorted bedbar. “Installing a new knife on a warped bedbar is like replacing the sole of a worn out boot,” said Andy. “It’s still an old boot.”



**NJTA's TURF TIP TIME Brought to You By:  
Andy Berenty, CSM CSA, PCSA**

For over twenty years, Andy Berenty has specialized in turf management products as a Product Support Specialist for Storr Tractor Company. With a passion for teaching, Andy prides himself on providing practical and beneficial training to his customers.

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