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## Kev's Tech Tips

### The importance of maintaining your batteries and alternator

It cannot be emphasised enough how important it is to maintain your batteries and alternators to keep them in peak condition.

The most common problems that arise with WeedSeeker can be traced to a weak set of batteries or a faulty or unsuitable vehicle charging system.

The electronic circuitry contained within your WeedSeeker system relies on a minimum operating voltage of 10.8V, but please remember that this voltage is required at the Line Controller terminals of your system.

On your average 24 metre system this means that a battery voltage of at least 12.0V is required for smooth operation.

On a 36 metre, or larger, system battery voltages need to be upwards of 12.5V.

Most modern tractors and sprayers have a large amount of electronics installed and the manufacturer usually supplies an alternator that will easily cope with this.

However, as tractors and self-propelled sprayers age their batteries deteriorate meaning that their current supplying ability diminishes. This is made even more apparent if the equipment is left unused for extended periods or the batteries become flat.

As a guide, if your tractor requires jump starting it will not have enough power to run the WeedSeeker system reliably until the batteries are fully charged once more. This may mean several hours of engine operation prior to turning on your WeedSeeker. Alternatively an overnight charge via a good quality battery charger should be sufficient.

The symptoms of battery or charging system faults are easy to spot. Your WeedSeeker system requires more power the more solenoids that fire at once. Therefore when the system is in flush mode, all solenoids firing, it is most susceptible. A typical problem will be shown by the LED's of one section turning off and on when the "Flush" switch is activated. The Master Controller in the cab may also switch itself off and back on in a cycling motion.

If this occurs please ensure that the engine is running.

