



Triplex Greens Mower Attachment Storage Rack

Hey Jimmy! Where's the third verticut reel for the triplex!? The 'Super' asked me to replace the reels with the vertical mowing attachments so they can verticut the putting surfaces tomorrow.

I don't know Billy, I put it with the other two... I think.

Sound like a conversation that might be overheard in your repair shop? For many overworked equipment technicians, this scenario is all too common. Kim Ellis, the senior equipment technician at Olde Florida Golf Club in Naples, was also frustrated with the storage of the extra reels and vertical mowing attachments for the club's Toro 3200 triplex.

The club owns only one triplex greens mower, which is primarily used to mow the driving range tees but it is also occasionally used to vertical mow greens on the golf course. Consequently, there are numerous times throughout the year when the reels must be switched with the vertical mowing attachments. Therefore, one of the challenges Kim faced was where to store the extra sets of reels when they were not in use. In an effort to make the task of switching the reels more convenient and easier, Kim designed a vertical storage rack that can be rolled to the site when it is time to make a switch on the triplex.

Having the attachments stored vertically — off the floor — also provides a safety benefit. Stored on the floor, the reels could create a safety hazard for an employee who might accidentally trip on the attachments. Also, by storing the reels off the floor, on a vertical rack, they are less likely to be damaged by another piece of machinery.

The rack Kim constructed was a modified version of a similar one that he had read about in *Golf Course News*. The rack holds three reels on each side at heights of 15, 30, and 45 inches off the floor. The overall height of the reel storage rack is 56 inches. It was decided that anything taller than this could result in a potential risk for an employee attempting to remove the reels that would be stored above their head. The base of the storage rack measures 32 by 16 inches and the arms that support the reels are 13 inches long, at a 17 degree angle from level and are attached to the center support (see picture).

The metal used to construct the piece of equipment was 1 x 1 x 1/8 inch, and 2 x 2 x 1/8 inch square steel tubing. At the base of the rack are four lockable, heavy-duty swivel casters that enable the equipment repair staff to roll the rack to the location of the triplex when it is necessary to switch the attachments. After the design was complete, the metal was welded in place. The final step was a coat of primer followed by several coats of Rust-oleum spray paint.

The total cost of the unit, not including the in-house labor, was less than \$250.

Darren J. Davis
Golf Course Manager
Olde Florida Golf Club



Quick Tips From Hollybrook

Ant Control

If you have trouble with ants in your irrigation boxes try using deodorizing urinal blocks in them. I place a standard 4 oz. block in the bottom of each control box on a plastic lid of some kind. They last about one month. Don't place them directly on the ground or concrete base, they won't last as long.

You can buy them from any janitorial supply house by the case without screens for around \$60. We have been using them for about eight months and we have not had any problems with insects in the control boxes during that time.

Aerification Holes

If you use a deep tine aerifier on your greens and have a hard time filling the holes, you might want to give this a try. After aerification we drag with a traditional steel drag mat. Next we verticut in one or two directions. Then we redrag the greens, but this time we use a set of brushes. This method has worked very well for us in helping to fill up the deep holes.

Jim Goins
Hollybrook G&TC