

SUPER TIP TOO

Weed Be Gone

Innovation is a way of life on a golf course. The latest in a parade of Rube Goldberg gadgets is a weed tool that Orchid Island Superintendent Matt Turner shared with me as he showed off his toolbox on wheels, in other words his utility vehicle.

Matt's favorite tool is a three pronged, weed-pulling tool constructed by his equipment technician, a simple straight hollow tube with a T-handle. Three bolts at the bottom serve as prongs and a plunger rod with a spring on top pushes the weed off the prongs.

Just insert the prongs into the ground over the center of the weed. Give a few twists and pull. Voila. Weed is gone. Push the plunger and shed the extracted weed into a container for tossing in the clippings dumpster. If you need more precise mathematical dimensions give Matt a call at 772-388-5545 for the specs.

Superintendent Matt Turner likes his simple and efficient weed pulling tool. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Close up of the weed tool so you can make your own. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Lammrigh acknowledged that golf course conditions are driven by golfer expectations, but when the superintendent has credibility and trust of management, the course can benefit by allowing the professional turf manager to try modifications that can benefit the bottom line and the environment.

Lammrigh said, "This past year has been a perfect example. Our normal 6-8 lbs. of N this year will be more like 4 lbs. total. I think the drier weather has slowed down normal plant growth and use of the nutrients. The course still looks good and our clippings yield is good, so we don't have to apply more

than is necessary to meet expectations."

Under normal conditions Lammrigh takes soil samples twice a year usually in April or May before the first aeration and then again in August or September after his last aeration. His reasoning is that if they need to adjust soil pH, the turf will be opened up and the fertilizer or amendments will be incorporated into the soil profile easier where it will be more readily available to the turf roots.

"We have greatly reduced our phosphorous inputs using 15-0-15 or 15-1-15 as our primary fairway and

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