Ozment finds 'tacky' solution for stakes

ITHACA, N.Y. — Looking for a way to make paint last longer on hazard stakes, Country Club of Ithaca golf course superintendent D. Cord Ozment found one: sticky paint.

Using an assortment of PVC pipe left over from an irrigation system installation, Ozment and his crew used 1-inch pipes for red lateral water hazard and yellow water hazard stakes, and 2-inch pipes for white out-of-bounds stakes.

"We first built a paint stand using a 12- by 24- by 2-inch board where holes were drilled on 8- to 10-inch centers, and where a 10-inch spike was mounted upwards through the holes," he explained. "PVC pipes were then cut into 32- to 36-inch lengths. Next we applied a generous coat of PVC primer to the entire surface of each stake and placed each stake onto the paint stand.

"We waited approximately 15 minutes to allow the PVC to get 'tacky,' then followed up with two coats of Rust-Oleum spray paint can paint," Ozment added.

"The real secret is in the PVC primer," Ozment said. "It allows the paint to stick to PVC, which makes for a very solid paint bond to the plastic pipe. We usually get two seasons before they become weather-beaten, or the victim of a frustrated golfer."

Standards

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Some members feel this requirement is extreme, that it slows down play, and that it is an arbitrary number. Others say we should reduce the number even more. (We do have some members in our programs with as little as 60 acres of irrigated turfgrass.) Still others say that private and public courses should be treated differently. Finally, some have said that if you construct a course on an area that is mostly slope and you don’t want to move a considerable amount of earth, then you need more turfgrass on the course.

So, this is your invitation to comment. Please send me your thoughts. In particular, if you know of existing research regarding any of these topics, I would like to know about it. I’ll report on the various comments in future issues. Send comments to: Ron Dodson, Audubon International, 46 Karick Rd., Selkirk, N.Y. 12158.

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