

# More (air) power to you: the first step in getting 'clean'

By TERRY BUCHEN

NAPLES, Fla. — Superintendent Darren J. Davis has started a recent standard operating procedure at Olde Florida Golf Club here, having his crews pre-cleaning all the maintenance equipment with high-pressure air hoses prior

to the traditional cleaning with water.

"We found that using high-pressure air hoses first does a much better job of pre-cleaning our equipment prior to it being



cleaned with a high-pressure water hose and nozzle," Davis said. "Plus, cleaning up dry grass clippings is much easier and has less of an odor than wet clippings.

Olde Florida installed two

air hose reels adjacent to the service road leading into the maintenance complex and an additional one at the equipment wash rack. This second station helps relieve congestion at the end of the work day, Davis said.

Davis chose the Retracta Retractable Hose Reel



Terry Buchen photo

A high-pressure air station at Olde Florida Golf Course.

that has 50 feet of 3/8-inch high-pressure air hose coiled inside. It also has a blow gun with an 18-inch long, 1/8-inch diameter stainless steel wand on the end. The red-colored high-impact plastic hose reel housing swivels from side to side and is attached to the air line with a 3/8-inch black high pressure hose, with a quick coupler connection.

The hose reel is mounted on a wolmanized pressure-treated 4-by-4 post that is 8 feet long. Two feet of the post was installed underground using two bags of Sacrete concrete, said equipment manager Kim Ellis.

Hanging on the front of the 4-by-4 post is an orange-colored safety sign, in both English and Spanish, stating: "Warning — Eye Protection Required In This Area," with a Grainger Plexiglass Safety Glasses Holder for each employee to use.

## Country club fertility

Continued from page 19

often reveals purchasing that influences both areas in a negative way. Some top examples I see include:

- √ Using often-expensive slow-release nitrogen incorrectly or when not needed at all can be very costly and easily corrected.

- √ Many so-called "biological" products are not much more than small amounts of mineral, humic material and carbohydrates that are diluted to the point of being highly ineffective.

- √ Selection of a fertilizer blend that is not exactly what is needed instead of shopping around leads to unneeded expense.

Agronomic and economic selection of fertility programming is not just the realm of the club that has a great deal of money to spend.

Public facilities can use the same techniques to plan, choose and purchase a better fertility program. This is a form of stewardship every superintendent can participate in regardless of budget status.



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