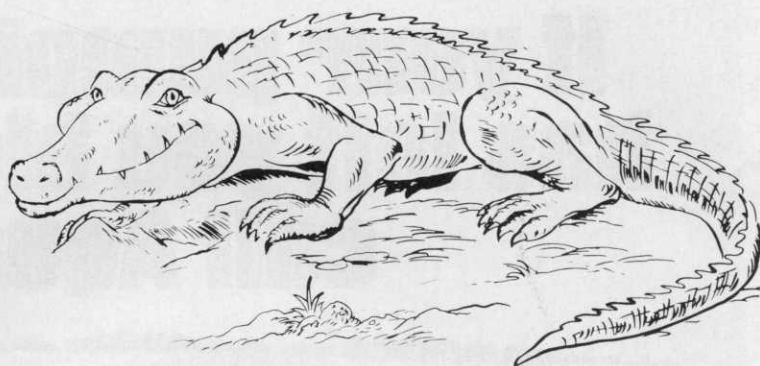


The Gator Growls



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This year, even though the financial outlook nationwide is unsteady, many superintendents in Southwest Florida are planning some extensive renovation for their golf courses. Most of the work will center around new golf cart paths, rebuilding tees and adding to existing irrigation.

Randy Vaughn (Jacaranda West) has a work order made up to build 3000 feet of cart path around the greens and tees of his new nine holes. The work is scheduled for June and will cost about \$8,500. Also, he is planning to put in about 500 feet of drainage tile which will run more than \$2500. Jim Lindsay (The Plantation Golf Course), though his course only opened March 14, still plans to spend much of the summer filling and sodding washouts, adding more drainage tile, and possibly adding a few more sand traps. Bob Shaffer (Count Club of North Port) is going to add a little length to two tees during June, and in the meantime he will be reshaping many of his sand traps and continuing the use of asphalt coverings for the swale bottoms already built into the golf course design. His black top cost has more than doubled in the past two years. During this time, he has spent about 400 hours preparing and laying the black top and has covered about 27,000 square feet of drainage area. He used about a ton of material per thousand square feet. In the Port Charlotte area, Bob Sanderson (Port Charlotte Golf Course) will be black topping five or six thousand feet of cart path on the first nine holes during March. He plans to spend under \$10,000. During May, he will be installing TORO automatic heads and controllers on the first nine fairways. The control tubing is already in place having been put there when the first twelve greens and tees were automated two years ago. Meanwhile, Ken Shakeshaft (Rotunda-Oakland Hills Golf Course) hopes to put in cart paths around all 18 greens and tees. His estimate for this work runs close to \$75,000. Dick Bessire (Burnt Store Golf Course) has already started using rip-rap around head walls and bad washout areas in his lakes and swales. Since the entire perimeter area of his golf course has been cleared for new homes, there is an unlimited amount of small rock which can be used for this purpose. Just down the road a few miles, Marc Tallmadge (The Mariner Golf Course) plans to finish the construction of the second nine of his executive course in order to open 18 completed holes by next fall.

Mark Selby (Palmetto Pines Golf Course) will be building a practice area with a green for his members to practice their wedge shots and/or chipping. Also, he is planning to strip the sod off several tees, then level that area and replace the sod. During the rainy season, his plans also call for the course to be closed one day, so Mike Cook can come in and inject all his fairways with EDB at a cost of more than \$7000. Buddy Carmouche (Cypress Lake Golf Course) will be spending \$34,000 to patch and cover his existing cart path which circles the entire course. He also plans to build a new tee for the 18th hole during the early summer. Rick Cook (Mirror Lakes Golf Course) also will be leveling several existing tees on his golf course just after the "Poa Annuu Tournament". Rick will aerify the tees first and then pull a heavy roller across the tees several times to achieve a more level surface. Ten miles to the east, Dennis Weaver (Oxbow Golf Course) is watching a three to four million dollar clubhouse take shape. This building will include a pro shop, cart storage area, meeting rooms, restaurant and will have about 25 motel rooms close by with expansion for more in the future. The completion date is set for early next fall.

Stan Norton (Naples Beach and Golf Club) after extensive greens rebuilding the past two years, now plans to rebuild several tees to complete the reconstruction of one of the oldest golf courses on the west coast of Florida. Architect Ron Garl redesigned all the greens.

Paul Nevers (The Country Club of Naples) is undertaking an ambitious program of reshaping 75% of his sand traps. He will be cutting away in some areas and adding sod to new tongues in other locations in order to achieve the new appearance. He will also be adding new sand to these traps to finish off the program. Meanwhile, Rodger Whitford (The Pelican Bay Golf Course) has been asked to add several sand traps to his new facility and hopes at the same time to add a few ladies tees. Bill Flippen (The Hole-in-the-Wall Golf Course) will be starting a program to build a few ladies tees each year for the next couple of years. He is going to replace his four ice cooled water coolers with electric coolers that have filters on them to improve the taste of local water. Bill's largest project is the replacement of all his Griswald Controllers with Toro Controllers and at the

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same time the installation of hydraulic control tubing to all the heads. He figures to spend more than \$100,000 to complete this irrigation switchover. Next door, Clint Smallridge is planning to spend approximately \$20,000 for new drainage. The reason for this is the property around his course has been elevated for new homes and this has caused the water that used to run off to back up now onto the golf course. Clint also plans additional cart path renovation in selected areas and a complete regrassing of at least four putting surfaces. One other project will be to level several tee tops that have become hump backed due to excessive top dressing where most of the wear appears.

Apparently, many Southwest Florida golf courses are undertaking major renovation programs this year, either because they feel that the funds may not be available next year, or that by doing it now, the golf course will get more value out of the dollar than might be possible a year from now. ■

New Drag Brush Introduced

Standard Golf Co. has introduced a drag brush for topdressing greens that will eliminate the stress caused by metal drags. The "Brush-Easy" will also do a more efficient job of putting topdressing into aeration holes when light dressing is applied.

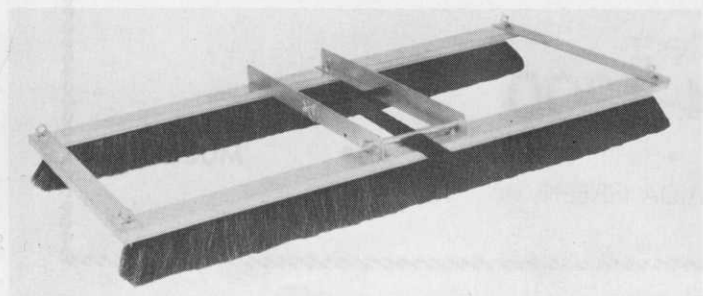
The Pro-Line Brush-Easy mounts six heavy-duty brushes in an aluminum frame that has a total weight of only 22 pounds. The tow bar is designed so that the Brush-Easy may be towed in either direction for longer brush life.

The brushes vibrate topdressing material into the aeration holes, rather than drag the material around, and the brushes stand the grass blades up, putting material around the blades.

According to superintendents, the Brush-Easy doesn't tear up the grass around the aeration holes, doesn't snag the greens, and doesn't pull topdressing off the greens into the low areas.

Greens recover faster. Players are back on the greens faster. And the Brush-Easy makes it possible to do light topdressings — a practice recommended over infrequent heavy dressing.

Complete information is available in the 1981 Standard Pro-Line catalog. Write for your free copy. Standard Golf Co., 220 East Fourth Street, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613 ■



Which Soil or Water Test Should I Ask For?

The services offered by the Extension Soil Testing Laboratory of the University of Florida are meant to serve a wide range of analytical needs. Since each test offered by the lab was developed for a specific purpose, it is generally inappropriate to use the test results in situations not anticipated when the test was established.

SOIL TESTS AVAILABLE

ROUTINE SOIL TEST. Provides basic soil fertility information for field and forest crops. Includes pH and lime requirements so *DO NOT* request that test if you ask for the Routine test.

pH and LIME REQUIREMENT ONLY. Saves testing for P, K, Ca, and Mg when that information is either not needed or is uninterpretable for the crop or situation in question. *NOTE:* Do not request this test if you have requested the Routine Soil Test. It is included in the Routine Soil Test Option.

MICRONUTRIENTS. Diagnosis of suspected deficiencies or toxicities. Interpretation of results are very tentative for most crops at present.

SOLUBLE SALTS. Primarily for intensively fertilized commercial vegetable crops.

INTENSITY AND BALANCE. Developed exclusively for intensively cropped vegetable soil. Generally interpretable only where sub-surface or seepage irrigation is used under field conditions, and in some greenhouse situations. Specialized interpretation necessary.

GREENHOUSE AND POTTING MIXES. Developed for monitoring fertility status of non-soil potting media used in commercial nurseries. Specialized interpretation necessary.

COPPER TOXICITY. A semi-quantitative test meaningful only for soil from citrus groves.

ORGANIC MATTER. Quantative measurement of soil organic matter content where needed to guide herbicide applications.

WATER TESTS AVAILABLE

HOME WATER ANALYSIS. For diagnosis of quality of home water supply. Interpretation found Fla. Coop. Ext. Serv. Circular 291B, "Home Water Quality Control".

IRRIGATION WATER I AND II. For evaluating quality of irrigation water. Specialized interpretation necessary. ■