



## Suncoast Sails

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### Prevention Might Pay

With all the modern technologies available to us, we have been able to predict weather, prevent disease and prevent weeds with increasing accuracy. There still remains a major problem which plagues all of us, the mindless destruction of golf course properties.

Depending on the severity of your vandalism problem, some sort of preventive measures should be looked into to help minimize future attacks. If you make things tougher to vandalize, possibly the offenders will give up and go elsewhere. Here is a list of old standbys that have been successful in many different areas.

- 1) Storage areas for golf carts and maintenance equipment should be well lit and properly secured (alarm systems, fencing, etc.).



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- 2) Minimize access points to the golf course property. Plantings along roadways have been successful but sterner measures might need to be taken in the form of man-made obstacles. Fencing can be unsightly but can be hidden with natural plantings.
- 3) Keep accurate records on when, where and the extent of damage in each instance of vandalism. Local police should be contacted. They may not investigate each incident but at least you will be on record should further incidents occur. This may also result in stepped up patrols to your property by local police agencies.
- 4) Golf courses with homes and condominiums lining the fairways have the potential for built-in security. By making the residents aware of the problem, they could report any suspicious activities and avert the damage before it's done. Some developments have organized their own security patrols that have proved to be good deterrents to crime and vandalism. They are usually happy to incorporate maintenance and cart storage areas into their routine patrols.

Hopefully by limiting access and availability to the property, large scale vandalism will be cut back. Making it tougher on vandals will, hopefully, take the fun out of it for them.

Since costs are on the rise, vandalism is fast becoming a burden on golf course operating budgets. The time may have come to include a vandalism prevention program in your next budget proposal. ■

### Think

If you think you are beaten, you are,  
If you think you dare not, you don't.  
If you like to win — but you think you can't,  
It's almost certain you won't.

If you think you'll lose, you've lost,  
For out of this world we find  
Success begins with a fellow's will,  
It's all in the state of mind.

If you think you're out-classed, you are.  
You've got to think high to rise.  
You've gotta be sure of yourself,  
Before you can win the prize.

Life's battles don't always go  
To the stronger or faster man,  
But sooner or later the man who wins,  
Is the man who thinks he can.