

SUPER TIP

Containment for Portable Sprayers

By Darren Davis

Whether for environmental considerations or cost reduction, spot treatment has become standard procedure for today's golf course manager. As part of our risk analysis we determined that when transporting our one-gallon, 15-gallon or backpack sprayers in utility vehicles, there is potential for spillage, which would be wasteful as well as potentially damaging to turfgrass and/or the environment. To reduce this risk at Olde Florida Golf Club we transport our spray equipment in 50-gallon Rubbermaid Roughneck® storage containers. The containers are 42.7 x 21.4 x 18 inches which accommodate our 15-gallon, 12-volt electric sprayers. Should a leak occur in a sprayer, all of the material would be contained in the plastic storage box and could



A 50-gallon storage container eliminates the risk of leaks from portable sprayers. Photo by Darren Davis.

then be transferred into another sprayer for continued application. The container can also be rinsed and all rinseate can be poured into spray equipment for proper disposal. The cost of the container is around \$20.00.

greens are mowed with hand walkers. I refused to go to triplexes and Green Committee approved. We skip clean-up ring about four times per week at least. Not a budget cut; just don't want the wear. We will raise height to .125 in. in the winter if it gets cold and sometimes won't mow greens for three or four days as when we got cold this year. We roll greens when necessary to get speed up or a lot after aerifying to smooth them out faster. Tees are cut at 3/8 in. during growing part of year, 1/2 in. when it gets cold. Fairways mowed at 1/2 in. all year. Keep reels sharp! Rought heights vary from 1.25 in. to 1.5 in. Our biggest change in mowing due to budget cuts was the frequency of mowing areas like the green slopes, approaches and tees.

Topdressing - We topdress greens religiously at least once every two weeks with the same mix that we used to build the greens only there is no organic material in it (GASH #304). More sand of course after aerifying.

The members expect even better conditions than last year even though our labor was cut. Several staff members were let go so they could be replaced with temporary laborers to save on overhead like taxes, insurance and benefits. Of course, it is difficult

to tell at this point how much we will suffer from a 'lesser competent' employee. These changes were made in late April.

FRANK SBARRO, La Gorce GC, Miami

We have made no changes to our basic program.

Verticutting – In the summer we verticut the greens biweekly at a depth of 1/8 in. The fairways are done in August at 3/4-in. depth.

Aerification – The greens are done with solid tines every two weeks from November to May. In May and July we pull 1/2-in. cores and in August 3/8-in. cores. We contract the aerification for all but fairways and tees which are done in house two times per year with 5/8-in. tines in May and July

Height of cut and mowing - Greens are mowed at .110 in. daily with cleanup pass five times per week.

Rolling Greens – We double roll on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Topdressing - We topdress greens twice per month May through November and once per month from December to April.

We did cut back on a few things to lower overtime by 40 percent. Our club

is totally focused on the golf course as its most valued asset; therefore we are operating as usual in regards to the maintenance of the course. Capital expenses are on hold until our member dues renewal in September of 2009. After that point we will reevaluate our strategies.

MIKE STEM, CGCS

The Legacy Club at Alaqu Lakes Longwood (Champion Greens)

Verticutting – Greens are weekly verticut/groomed with verticut blades set at 0 below roller.

Aerification - Greens are done with 5/8 in. in May, 1/2-in. tines in August and 1/4-in. quad-tines in September. We power slice with a Planetaire every three weeks in growing season and twice in the winter. Height of cut and mowing – We hand-mow greens in the winter and triplex in summer. We walk-mow perimeters all year. No overseeding in the winter, HOC is .140 in. in cool season, .100 in. in spring, and .140 in. in the summer. Rolling - Three days per week rolling pin placement locations except for special events. The greens are topdressed monthly in winter, weekly in the summer and every two weeks in the spring and fall.