

refused to eat, he was almost force fed, and the extra food added to his size, a process that has continued until the present time when he has passed the 10-foot mark.

"Freddy's" first escape occurred eight years ago during his master's absence from town. The Mrs. was sweeping the swimming pool when she felt something crawling over her foot. She looked down, and to her horror found "Freddy" trying to be friendly. Neighbors were called in to capture the wild two-foot long monster and return him to his home.

Upon my return, I was given an ultimatum that either "Freddy" was going, or my wife was leaving. I gave this some thought and then started looking for a new home for my pet.

Removing him to the Everglades was certainly not the answer, because we had trained him to come upon call for his supper and it was very apparent that if he was taken to a wilderness he had never known, he would walk up to the first hunter and beg to be fed.

A call to the Zoological Society of the Palm Beaches found a positive offer: "We would love to have 'Freddy' in our Dreher Park Zoo." That was the easy part. When we handed "Freddy" to the caretaker he squirmed and fought his new master. Then photographers asked for another picture of me holding him and I took the alligator back into my arms and he actually cuddled up to me, making the parting much more painful.

For eight years "Freddy" has been an apparently happy alligator and has showed off for thousands of visitors. Our visits to "Freddy" started out on a weekly basis, but in recent years this has been reduced to once a year on September 12th where, of course, we always present him with a birthday present of marshmallows and cake.

Then, in early March, "Freddy" apparently said "to heck with it all!" and burrowed his way out of his cage and disappeared.

We would like to think that his reason for the prison breakout was to return to his original home. However, cooler heads indicate that perhaps he heard Mendelssohn's Wedding March and went looking for his bride.

However, Zoo officials did not take the escape lightly and quickly closed the park--and even returned the admission money--and the search was on.

The park remained closed the remainder of that day and all the following day until, as the sun was slipping into the west, the prisoner was located. After carefully taping his mouth shut, the giant creature was returned to his home.

Zoo officials are now busy building "Freddy" a brand new home that they hope will be escape proof, but I still can dream that someday we will hear a knock at the door and find that "Freddy" has returned to his original home and is looking for a marshmallow.

Reprinted from South Florida Water Management District Bulletin.

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Hans Schmeisser Receives Palm Beach Chapter's First Distinguished Service Award



Hans Schmeisser, left, and his son, Otto, president of the Palm Beach Chapter of GCSA.

On June 18 at a Gulfstream Golf Club chapter meeting Hans Schmeisser was awarded a plaque by the Palm Beach group.

Scott Sincerbeau made the presentation to Hans and said the following:

"As chairman of the Special Awards Committee I take great pride in being able to tell you about the first recipient of the Palm Beach Chapter Superintendent's Association Distinguished Service Award.

"South Florida is blessed with many of the best golf course superintendents in the world. Special among these men is a superintendent with 50 years active service in our profession, a man that by being an honest, sincere, friendly professional person has established most of the standards that we work by today.

"I will introduce him to you then I would like to tell you some of the highlights of his career.

"The 1980 recipient of the Palm Beach Chapter Distinguished Service Award is Mr. Hans Schmeisser.

"To understand Hans' career I think it is important to picture in your mind the early 1930's when there were only three or four golf courses in Miami and only a handful in all of South Florida. It was a time when superintendents didn't have others to look to for help and there were no best ways of doing business or fancy equipment to work with.

"Hans first golf course was a resort course at Everglades City for Mr. Collier (of Collier County fame). He had flower beds, elaborate entranceways, lush landscaping and a golf course in the middle of the Everglades in the early 1930's. Because of the quality of work Hans did and the clientele at Mr. Collier's resort, Hans met many famous people in-

(Continued on Page 22)

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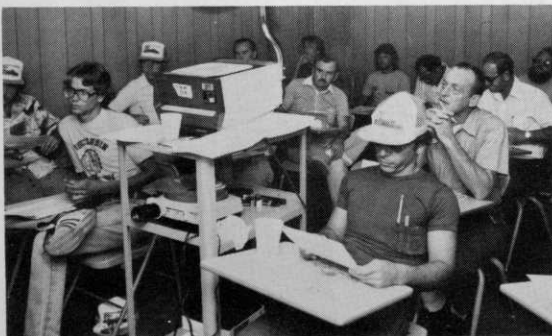
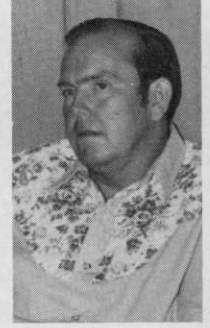
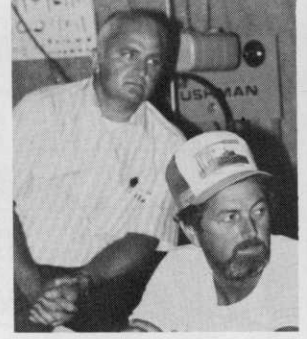
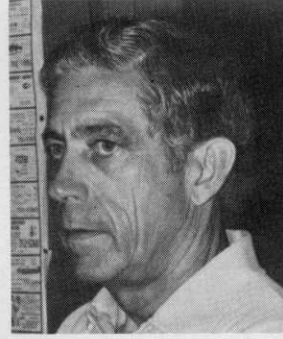
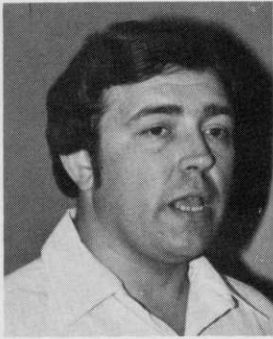
DeBra Turf and Jacobson Conduct "Hands-On" Equipment School

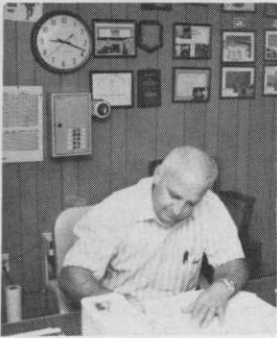
- 35 Mechanics and Supervisors Attend 3-Day Session at Lake City College

Once again Lake City College and Director Jerry Cheesman cooperated with manufacturers and dealers in providing classrooms and shops for advanced training to golf course personnel, shown here during mid-June.

Ralph Sylvester and Tom Young were Jacobsen instructors aided by Randy Smith, shown in Row 2 with Ed Combest. David Lee served as host for the DeBra Company.

(Photographic Report by Harry McCartha)





Excellent Job Opportunities Await Graduates as Golf Course Mechanics

- Lake City Community College Needs Our Help in Recruiting Students



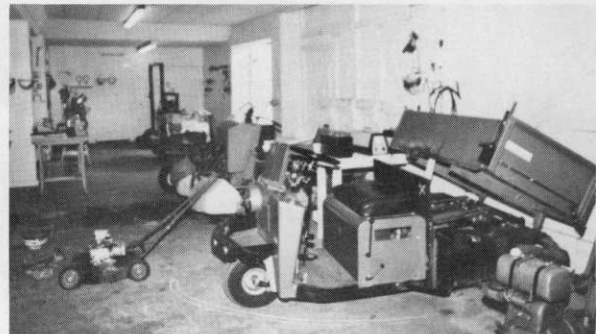
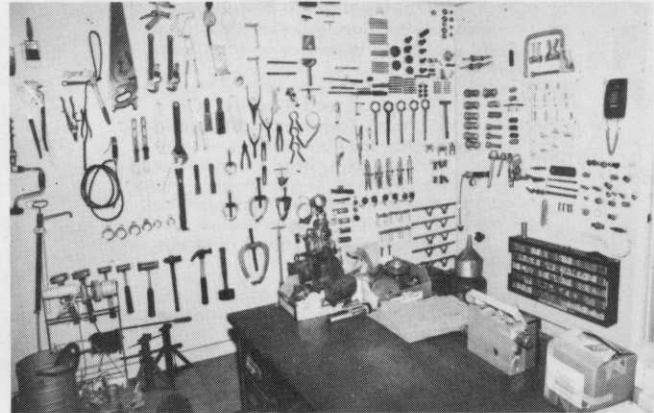
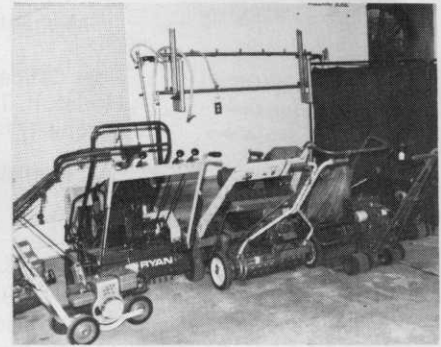
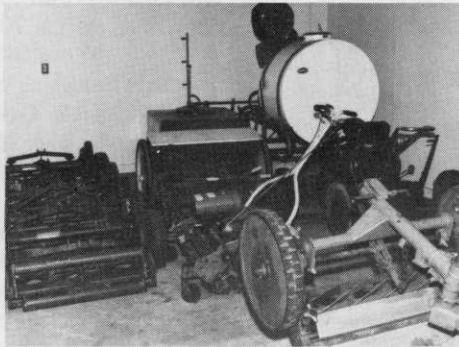
With nearly a quarter million dollars worth of equipment and tools, excellent instructors in fine shop-classroom buildings, at Lake City Community College they're helping our industry.

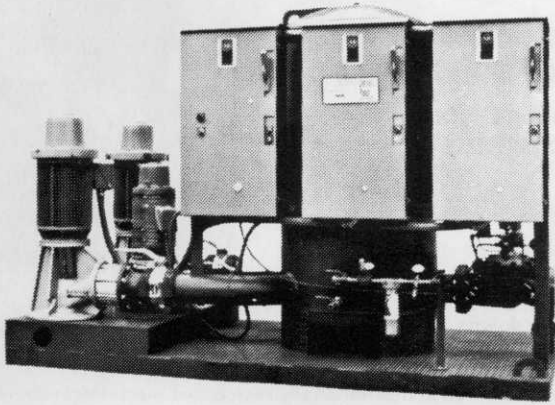
You can help interest students to enroll in this nationally recognized mechanics school. Ed Combest, shown top left, is instructor and Jerry Cheeseman at right is director.

Mechanical certificates can be earned in one calendar year. The school offers quality training at low cost to the student.

A very small part of the equipment and shop areas are shown here. Further information may be obtained from the college by mail or by calling the director's office in Lake City, Florida — 904/752-1822, Ext. 225.

(Photographic Report by Harry McCartha)





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3. Do you know that independent consultants can plan a program geared for optimum economic return on your golf course?

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Florida-Georgia Wins Poa Annuu Classic

Ron Hill, Amelia Island Golf Course, scored a low gross 70 to pace the Florida-Georgia chapter to their first victory in the Poa Annuu Classic. Lehigh Acres, Mirror Lakes Golf Course was the site of the annual event. Robby Robbins, Gainesville Golf and Country Club, carded a 73 to help the winning team and Alan Stoffel, Timuquawk Golf Course, added a 74. Central Florida was the runner-up chapter. Their team was led by Dan Aylwin, New Smyrna Golf Course, and Joe Ondo, Winter Pines Country Club, as both carded a 73. Tim Hiers, Suntree Golf Course, was their next low score with a 74. The defending champion, the host Everglades chapter, finished third. They were paced by Dick Bessire, Burnt Store Golf Course, with a 76.

Kevin Downing, Atlantis Golf Club, won the low net with a 70. His score was formulated on the calloway system. Jim Walsh, Zaun Equipment, and Sunny Smith, Superior Fertilizer, tied at 77 to share commercial honors for low gross. The commercial low net was won by Doug Anders, Busch Brewery, with a 70 on the calloway system.

Special thanks to event chairman, Bob Sanderson, CGCS, Port Charlotte Golf Course. Mirror Lakes superintendent Rick Cook; pro Mel Eby; and Jim Fortana, senior vice president; provided their excellent facility to us at no cost. The host, Everglades chapter, had numerous prizes. Top gifts were two weekend vacations. Ron Hill won a week for two at South Seas Plantation, Captive Island. Kevin Downing won a weekend for two at the Naples Golf and Beach Club, Naples. Other prizes included a set of Titleist woods, three golf bags, head covers, putters, drivers, and irons. Shirts, umbrellas, balls and gloves were also gifts for chapter winners.

Dr. Gerald Anderson and his staff get special credit for another great barbecue! It's always goooood!



Front left: Bob Sanderson and John Hayden. Standing, left to right: Alan Stoffel, Robby Robbins, Bobby Weed and Ron Hill.



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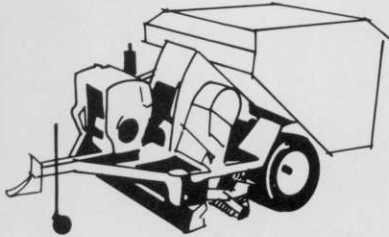
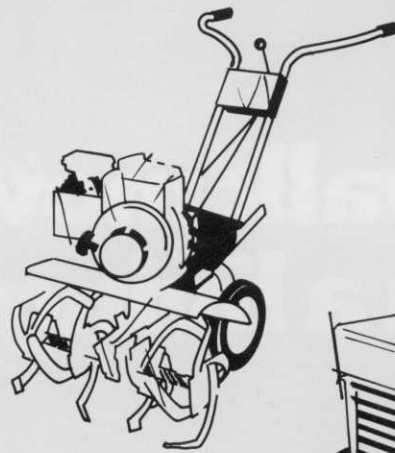
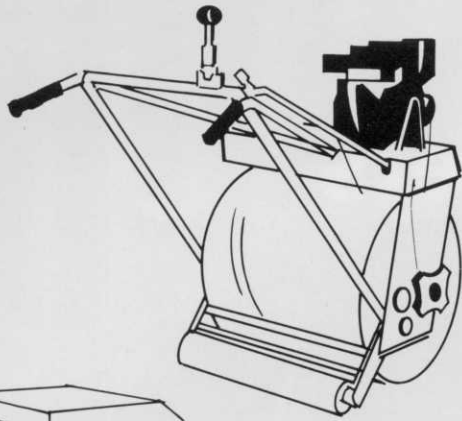
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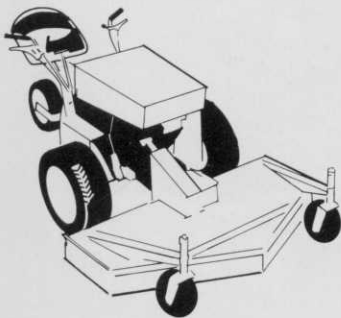
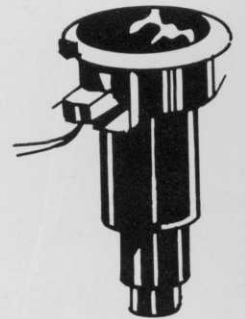


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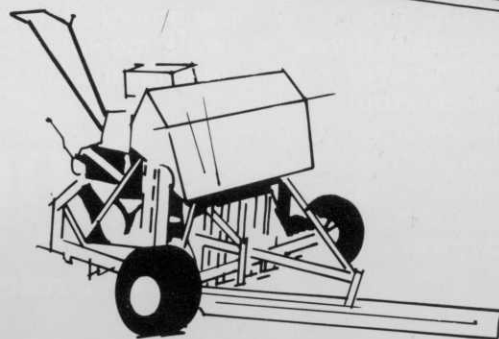
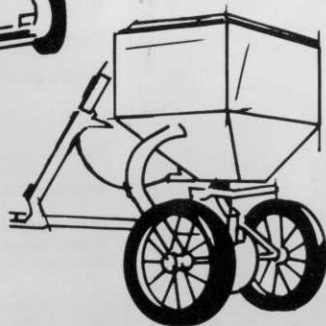
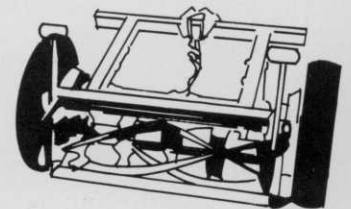
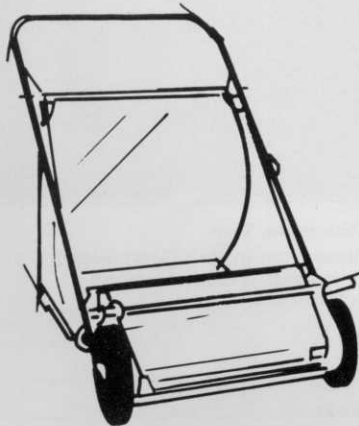
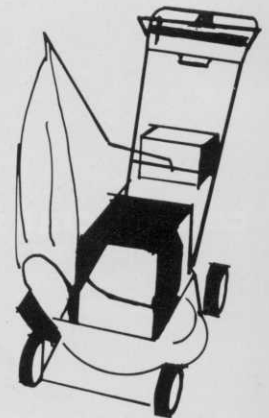
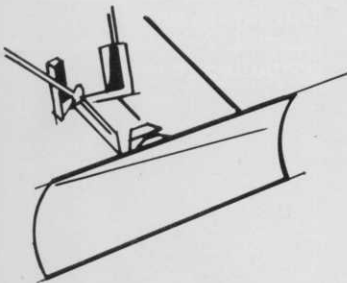
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Putting Green Overseed Report

Fall overseeding of putting green surfaces is done by the majority of golf courses in Florida. The time to order your fall seed is now. A recent study on this subject may shed some new light.

Phil Gardner, regional manager, Lesco Products compiled the following information. The territory interviewed included all the state of Florida except the panhandle region. The total of eighteen hole courses was 465. Of that number, 305 overseeded putting greens. Because of simple geography, the courses from Orlando north led the count. Their section showed 122 out of 130 were overseeded. Tampa, south to Marco Island along the Gulf of Mexico coastline had 90 out of 145 courses overseeded. The east coast, from Vero Beach to Miami was the exception to the state majority. This area had 93 overseeded out of 190 courses computed. The warmer temperatures off the Atlantic Ocean account for this result. In this region the subject is open to conversation. Clubs next door to each other, with similar budgets and the same golf players, seldom agree if it is needed.

The most often used seed type was perennial ryegrass. As a matter of fact it was the overwhelming winner. Only 24 out of the 305 did not use some form of ryegrass. The rye breakdown was as follows: 5 annual, 33 Pennfine, 12 Manhattan, 6 Citation, 2 Regal, 9 Derby, the remaining 214 were blends. The leading blend was Medalist combinations with CBS as runnerup. Penncross bent was used by 13 courses in the Palm Beach and Miami area. Five courses in the Naples section used this type of overseed. Three other southern courses used Penncross bent and fescue blends. Fescue was used in about thirty courses as a blend, but none used it in a pure fine leaf variety. One Palm Beach based company used Kentucky Bluegrass on their two courses.

Overseed rates were fairly standard. Rye rates were between 25 and 30 pounds per thousand square feet. A few courses were as high as 40 pounds per thousand square feet. The penncross bent rates were between 3 and 4 pounds per thousand square feet. Thus the overseed cost of the rye and bent greens were about the same. Rye seed per pound cost about 1/6 that of bent but six times the seed must be applied.

Overseed dates vary in the state. The northern courses start the last week of October. Most are done with their work by mid November. In contrast, the southern 100 mile area on both coasts has little done before Thanksgiving, and generally are finished by mid December.

Eighty percent of the ryegrass seed was treated with Koban. This percentage should be near one hundred percent. Last year the price difference was 4¢ per pound more

(Continued on Page 18)



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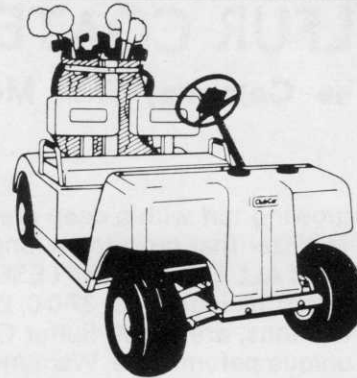
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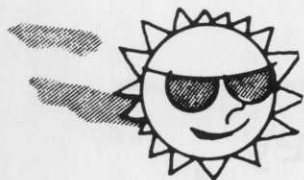
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than non Koban treated seed. This year it will be 5¢ per pound. This is a good investment against pythium disease. The main objection to overseeding with bent is in this area. Bent seed is not Koban treated because of the very small seed size.

Two out of three superintendents statewide said they had their bermuda greens in a weak condition prior to overseeding. This made it easier for the seed to get established. After overseeding the fertilizer rates were increased. Eighty-five percent verticut prior to overseeding. Surprising results show fifteen percent did not topdress behind the overseeding. The cutting height on established overseed was generally 3/16 inch. The east coast led in lower cutting with many at 5/32 inch and some down to 1/8 inch cut height.

Overseeding was not limited just to greens. State totals show 110 courses overseeded tees. This was done to 75 out of 130 courses from Orlando north. Only twelve used a rye blend and the remaining sixty-three used annual rye. Annual rye was also used in fifteen out of the twenty courses on the west coast that overseeded tees. 125 did not overseed tees in that area. Nine of fifteen east coast courses used annual rye on tees. The other six used a rye blend. 175 east coast courses did not overseed tees. Small tees, with heavy play factors, forced overseeding of tees in the southern area.

Six courses in the Jacksonville area overseeded fairways. In all cases annual rye grass was used. But then again it does snow up there!



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Subject:

Survey Results, State and National

Two separate survey reports have just been released with striking similar results yet marked different vital statistics. The two reports are the "Profile of Golf Superintendent" by our national GCSAA headquarters. The other is a Florida survey of 146 courses compiled by Bob Sanderson, CGCS, Port Charlotte Golf Course. Both works are excellent data. With nearly every dollar answer you ever wanted to know about a golf course, but did not know who to ask. Because both had over a 30% response they are statistically valid.

The facts and figures lead up to "averages". Some people say averages are useless but some medium must be achieved. If you think the averages do not apply to you, try and find an average golfer and ask them where they play. No golfer will ever admit to being average. And likewise few courses will admit to being average.

When comparing our golf courses to those in other sections of the nation the constant argument occurs. Dollar wise it can not be done on an even basis. It is like comparing apples to oranges. This is true but, there is a direct relationship between rounds played, thus total income. And the budget spent to maintain the golf course because of additional play and yearly growing season. To put the two into focus look at the numbers from this angle. The Florida golf courses are very efficient for the dollar spent versus income.

The size of the golf courses were the same so throw out that factor on both sides. The national average was just two acres larger. The Florida golf courses played 52,000 rounds of golf with the national figure some 20,000 rounds less. This represents a 60% increase over the national total. Did we spend 60% more to maintain the playing condition of the golf courses. The answer is no. The national average of \$155,600 is the base figure. That would get you through your seventh month of a fiscal year in Florida. The state average is \$225,000, excluding executive courses. This is 45% increase over the national norm. The high income, big budget area of Palm Beach and Miami areas were different from other state figures but had an equal ratio to national

numbers. Both their income and maintenance budgets were about 65% above the national average.

The personal profile of the superintendent at the state and national level have interesting stories to tell. One of the most noteworthy stats from national was the education level. The quality of management professionalism is reflected by the fact that 36% of GCSAA survey hold a bachelors or advanced degrees. Another 28% have an associate degree. The age of the "dumb sod farmer" is long gone. Also the superintendent is playing golf. The national average of 42 rounds per year is probably 25% below a state average if such statistics were kept.

Vacations are where the Florida superintendent loses to the national norm. It is easy to understand why. It is not unusual for a Florida superintendent to not be able to take a full two week vacation. Usually your total is two weeks and that gets split into two or three short "get away" periods. The national figures will make us jealous. But not if you must throw snowballs in December or January like they do. Only 38% nationally have two weeks or less vacation. The national numbers tell us 31% get four or more weeks vacation.

One vital area is similar in spite of the larger work load. The national and state salaries differ only a few percentage points. The high budget area of the southeast Florida coast comes out 24% above the national salary figures. But salaries in three local state chapters are below the national salary rate by as much as 14%. The hours worked in Florida compare to that same percentage of additional rounds played. One Florida superintendent tells the story of a winter visit of a superintendent from upstate Michigan. The visitor asked when do you down machinery to rebuild it. He was told we take a forty-five minute lunch break and the mechanic works on the equipment then. The mechanic takes his lunch break at a different time. No four months off here!

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WHAT'S INSIDE IT A BET

If you're hardnosed about business decisions, you want to get the in-depth facts on a product before you buy. That's why we've put together this head-to-head comparison between the insides of an E-Z-GO and a Cushman. We took comparable top-of-the line models, E-Z-GO's GT-7 and the Cushman Turf Truckster. Here's what we found.

Power Source: 18 horsepower OMC engine, tightly compartmentalized. Ground speed 0 to 22 mph.

Braking: Hydraulic internal expanding.

Payload: 1000 pounds.

Suspension System: Torsion bars, leaf springs, front and rear shocks.

Dump Construction: Single wall.

Headlights: Single.

Seating: Single seat for one passenger with back rest and hip restraint.

Price: Virtually the same.

