

ONE MORE WEAPON

Portland CC'S Porter modifies unit into side-dumping work-saver

By J. BARRY MOTHES

PORTLAND, Maine — It was during a major overhaul of Portland Country Club's irrigation system that grounds staffer Ron Porter started thinking about the potential benefits of a side-dumping utility vehicle.

"With all the trenches we had to fill, we just kept backing up and dumping, backing up and dumping," said Porter. "It seemed to me that it would be

a heck of a lot easier if we could dump sideways."

Porter teamed up with fellow grounds crew staffer Mike Poole and shop mechanic Dave Pellerin to build and install a new bed and rear-range the existing hydraulics to transform a 4-wheel 1980



ON THE GREEN

back-dumping Cushman into a side-dumping vehicle that has been something of a lifesaver for the crew and an ingenious little step forward for golf course

maintenance.

Porter and his PCC staff mates began their quest for perfect side-dumping by

lengthening the chassis on the modified 4-wheel Cushman by a foot to accommodate the special body they wanted. They also increased the tire size from 18- by 9.5- 8-inch to 22-inch by 11-8-inch.

They then built a special new, heavy-duty bed from supplier stock that created all sorts of dumping and carrying options. There's a small levered "sand door" within the back door of the bed and a

hinged door on the driver's side. All three sides of the bed can be removed to create a simple flat bed.

In order to get the side-dumping feature, they built a new base frame and added hinge points positioned parallel with the sides. This allows them to change the position of the hydraulic cylinder that raises and lowers the bed. The custom-built frame also still has the conventional front and back hinge points for back-dumping.

As anyone who has worked on a golf course knows, a side-dumping vehicle can make many common, everyday tasks of golf course work easier and make small crews more efficient. Side-dumping is particularly helpful for sand trap and trench work and allows the driver a better look at what's being dumped for projects requiring a finer touch.

In fact, some jobs that might require two people with only a back-dumping feature can sometimes become a one-person job. And, in less than a half hour, the cylinder can be repositioned to the conventional

A side-dumping vehicle can make many common, everyday tasks of golf course work easier and make small crews more efficient.

FACT:

ConSyst®, the All Purpose fungicide, cures and prevents more turf diseases for less money.

Leaf Spot . . . No Problem

Brown Patch . . . Gone - Nothing Better

Dollar Spot . . . Forget It



Because it's the All-Purpose fungicide, it has become the only fungicide needed.

ConSyst® fungicide truly is the "All Purpose fungicide". It exhibits superior performance over any other single fungicide to eliminate the worry in protecting your greens and fairways from deadly diseases. It has both contact and systemic activities to cure and prevent turf and ornamental diseases including pythium.

"For the lion's share of excellence".



Ask your local salesperson for results and cost comparisons.

FACT:

hinge points for back dumping. Porter, 52, worked for nearly 30 years with a local truck equipment manufacturing company before joining the PCC grounds staff five years ago. Although in the past his projects involved "huge" pieces of equipment, he's quite happy with the results of this smaller-scale project.

"It's something I'm quite proud of and I'm thankful that Pat Lewis (PCC superintendent) had the faith in us to let us try it," Porter said. He added that through trial-and-error the PCC staff has found that a side-dumping bed does not work particularly well on a three-wheel vehicle which can be "tippy."

"I was surprised that somebody like Toro, as big as they are, hasn't really come up with the idea," said Porter, adding he would like to develop the idea further in the future. "You see it on trailers but not on smaller vehicles. I'm surprised some smart guy hasn't come up with something.

"I on-ly build things because I don't like manual labor. If there's an easier way to do it with a mach-ine, I'll find a way to do it."