

TPC Network's clean machines

By TERRY BUCHEN

LAS VEGAS — Keeping maintenance equipment clean is a top priority with superintendents and their staffs, and some high-tech equipment can help.

At The TPC at The Canyons here, superintendent Kim Byron Wood has the latest state-of-the-art cleaning equipment, now used

extensively in the TPC Network.

"Cleaning and waxing our equipment is a top priority, so our equipment will last much longer, will be much easier for our technicians to service and will look new all the time," said Wood.

A pressure washer with a natural gas-fired burner/heater is used by the equipment technicians,

who wax each piece of equipment after washing it and before servicing it. Next to the pressure washer, looking left to right, is a red-colored hose reel with a 1-inch-diameter, high-pressure water hose connected to the irrigation system. Two green-colored signs warn employees not to drink the irrigation water.

A smaller, gray-colored hose reel, and hand trigger-operated wand, are for the pressure washer. Next is another red-colored hose reel that has a high-pressure air hose, with a larger yellow-colored safety sign warning employees to use eye protection.

On the far right side is another red-colored larger hose reel with a 1-inch-diameter, high-pressure hose originating from the irrigation system.

"Our drainage grate has a small screen material over it so grass clippings and other smaller debris does not go into our oil and grease separator vault," Wood said.

Sun assessment

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gland Regional Turfgrass Conference here. Oatis hailed the sunlight-assessment technology developed by Arbor Com Inc. of Toronto. "It is mind-boggling what they can do with it," Oatis said.

"On difficult sites with difficult memberships, and for particularly important trees, you can use [sunlight assessment] to document and quantify how many and which trees need to be removed" to save shaded turfgrass, Oatis said.

The position of the sun as it rises differs by approximately 22 degrees, depending on location, from the longest day to the shortest. And its angles change over the course of a day and the year.

"So, when we ask which trees should be removed, the answer is different for different times of the year," he said. "If you do a sunlight assessment on just one day of the year, you will make a serious mistake, cutting the wrong trees entirely, or not cutting enough trees."

Using Arbor Com's technology solves the quandary, Oatis said. Setting up a sunlight location device on the green and connecting it to a laptop computer, Arbor Com can provide the exact location of the sun at any hour on any day of the year.

"You map the green and trees and run a shade-assessment program which shows how much light different areas of the green get....," he said. "It can rate which individual trees have the biggest impact on shade. The program also calculates the amount of light you will gain after doing the tree work. It identifies trees, or even branches which are causing problems and quantifies how much you'll gain by doing the work."



The state-of-the-art wash rack at The TPC at the Canyons.



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