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A divot fix

The TPC Boston in Norton, Mass., is a popular venue that generates a lot of play and hosts the annual Deutsche Bank Championships on the PGA Tour. Golf course superintendent Tom Brodeur thought of a way to build two different fairway divot repair tools. Chris Hunt, equipment service manager, and Ron Terfry, assistant equipment service manager and inventor of the tools, assisted.

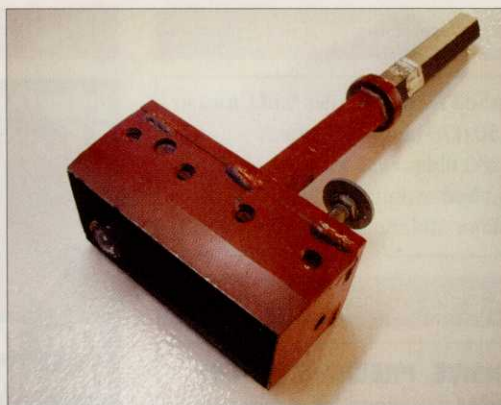
The TPC Boston's fairways are built on a heavy clay, rocky soil. There are numerous low spots golf balls funnel into, resulting in many concentrated fairway divots that must be repaired before the nationally televised event.

The first step is to use the divot outlining tool (top picture), which is 4.5 feet tall and has three-quarter-inch-diameter, hollow steel T handles welded in place. On the bottom of the divot outlining tool is a plugging tool made of used John Deere 180 bedknives the size of a dollar bill. The plugging tool is pounded into the soil an inch and a half deep.

The silver-colored slide hammer, which has a cut-off moil point bit, slides up and down inside the 1.5-inch-diameter, hollow steel shaft (weighing 50 pounds total) to pound the rectangular shaped bedknives into the clay soil. The bedknives are welded flush into place onto a block of notched steel. There are two half-inch-diameter holes drilled on either end of the block for three-eighths-inch-diameter bolts. One-inch diameter washers are welded on both ends of the bolts that slide back and forth to extract the divot.

The divot-outlining tool is used to outline divots on fairways and at the fairway turf nursery to prepare for removal of old divots and new turf with the divot-grabber tool (bottom picture).

The divot grabber tool has two handles made of 1.5-inch-by-one-quarter-inch square tubing that's 5-feet long and welded together. It weighs 15 pounds. The divot grabber tool is operated much like a post-hole digger in which the handles are moved outward to extract the divot after it's outlined with the divot outline tool. The handles have a guide bar made of 1-inch-by-1-inch square tubing so the bedknives are kept in a parallel position before they move inwards to extract the divot. The divot grabber tool also uses used John Deere 180 bedknives that are welded in place.



Travels With Terry

Globetrotting consulting agronomist Terry Buchen visits many golf courses annually with his digital camera in-hand. He will share helpful ideas relating to maintenance equipment from the golf course superintendents he visits – as well as a few ideas of his own – with timely photos and captions that explore the changing world of golf course management.

Mount it

At The Estancia Club in Scottsdale, Ariz., Michael Mongiello, CGCS, director of agronomy, and Brian Porcelli, operations manager, figured out a good way to transport a Spray Hawk walk-behind sprayer around the course by mounting it onto a Toro Multi Pro sprayer.

Mounting the walk-behind sprayer on the front of the Multi Pro sprayer worked best using two 2-inch-by-2-inch pieces of square tubing 6 inches long and welding them to the front steel bumper. The tubing was primed and painted black to match the original bumper color. Holes were drilled for three-eighths-inch-diameter bolts 3-inches long. The tubing was bolted in place and a 2-inch-diameter flat washer was welded on top of the bolt on each piece of square tubing, which holds the inside of the Spray Hawk axles onto the front bumper and keeps the walk-behind sprayer from moving in any direction. A one-quarter-inch-by-30-inch-long chain with quick disconnect clips also were used to keep the walk-behind sprayer in place while transporting it around the course.

The materials cost about \$25, and the labor took about an hour and a half. **GCI**

