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EQUIPMENT IDEAS

Light it up

At the Coco Beach Golf & Country Club in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico, golf course superintendent Dave Russell, assistant superintendent Jason Matos and head mechanic Hector Encarnacion installed bright lights on the maintenance equipment.

Two quartz halogen, 12-volt lamps were installed on Toro Sand Pros, Toro 6500 five-plex fairway mowers and Toro 4500 five-plex rotary mowers so it's easier for the operators to see where they're mowing turf and raking bunkers during early morning and nighttime operations. The lights will come in handy when the club hosts the Puerto Rico Open, a first-time event on the PGA Tour, in March 2008.

The light fixtures, which are for off-road use only, cost about \$20 each and were purchased from a local auto parts store. The larger lamp fixtures (similar to aircraft landing light fixtures in their lighting output) replaced smaller light fixtures on the equipment, so the wiring was in place already. It took only an hour to install them. On the fairway and rough mowers, the smaller light fixtures were left in place for lighting closer to the cutting units.



Travels With Terry

Globetrotting consulting agronomist Terry Buchen visits many golf courses annually with his digital camera in hand. He shares 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.

Protection from the elements

The golf course maintenance department at Coco Beach Golf & Country Club knows how to protect its staff members from the bright sunlight and 80-plus inches of annual rainfall that occur in Puerto Rico without spending much money.

Inexpensive golf umbrellas were acquired from Sam's Club for about \$15 each. They're kept in place at the top of the mowers' roll bars. The handle is wedged in between the operator's seat and a plastic tube that holds the owner's manual. One-quarter-inch-diameter golf course roping secures them properly.

A traditional sunlight and rainfall cover is an optional piece of equipment for mowers. The cover, which can cost as much as \$1,000, would be attached to the roll bar and is available from equipment distributors or aftermarket equipment companies.

The golf umbrellas are used on the Toro Multi Pro 1200 sprayers, 3500 and 3100 Sidewinder triplex rotary and reel mowers, and 3150 Greensmaster triplex greens mowers, which are all used to help maintain the 36-hole complex that was designed by Tom Kite in 2003. **GCI**

