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EQUIPMENT IDEAS

A better crimper

Bill English, president of Houston-based Bill English Construction Management and Consulting, designed a unique crimper attachment for a riding bunker rake in 1998 when he was overseeing the sprigging of the greens at Black Horse Golf Club in Cypress, Texas. However, the motorized crimper used at the time was only 24-inches wide, and the operator left footprints in the greens. English showed his crimper-design sketch to then superintendent Roger Goettsch, and together they improved the design, built a prototype and used it on the next green sprigged. As a result, the green was crimped three times faster, there were no impressions on the surface, and there was a more uniform depth of cut.

English's latest model is being used at Kohanaiki Golf & Ocean Club in Kona, Hawaii, where he's the project manager and Brian Tanner is the director of agronomy. The newer model is 6-feet wide and about 1-foot tall. The cut-in, stainless-steel discs are $\frac{1}{8}$ inch by 9 inches in diameter and are welded to a 6-foot-long, 2-inch-diameter shaft on 2.5-inch spacings. The shaft is held on to the frame by two large bearings. A strong, safe metal hood on top of the frame allows an employee to stand on it during the crimping operation so the discs can penetrate deeper. It mounts to a riding bunker rake with quick disconnects.

After the sprigs are crimped in one direction, they're rolled with a walk-behind roller filled with water that eliminates the bunker rake tire prints, closes the cut-in area and provides 100-percent contact between the sprigs and greens mix.



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.

Name recognition

Darren J. Davis, director of golf course operations at the Olde Florida Golf Club in Naples, designed a simple but effective daily crew assignment board in the employee lunch/meeting room. Davis used 4-inch-by-1-inch magnetic holders for each employee's name, which was typed using a 38 Times New Roman font in Microsoft Word. After all the names were printed on a single page and laminated, each name was cut to fit snugly inside the magnetic holders. The lamination process keeps the surfaces clean and makes for easy routine cleanup.

Instead of writing the daily routine crew assignments with a dry-erase marker, Davis uses the same size magnetic holders with the daily crew assignments for the eight most common daily tasks: mowing greens, tees, fairways, approaches and rough, as well as changing the hole locations, raking bunkers and servicing tees. Each assignment is color coded for each task. The color coding makes it easy to see how many people are performing each task because they can change daily.

The digital color photos of each employee is a nice touch for employee recognition. Each photo is printed on photo paper and placed on a self-adhesive 2.5-inch-by-2.5-inch magnetic holder and then laminated to help keep them clean. All magnetic holders were obtained from Timewise (www.timewiseboards.com). A package of 12 magnetic holders cost \$13.85. The total cost for the holders, lamination and photo paper costs less than \$75. **GCI**

