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EQUIPMENT IDEAS

Engine protection

At The Silverleaf Club in Scottsdale, Ariz., Bruce Leonard, equipment manager, and Alejandro Garcia, assistant mechanic, designed and built a protective plywood cover over the engine/mechanicals of the Toro Workman 3300, which has a Toro 1800 topdresser permanently mounted on its rear.

Because there are cross braces underneath the plywood for added support, the cover is strong enough for an employee to stand on when scattering topdressing material in the hopper. The cover also protects the engine from stray topdressing materials. A piece of rubber joins the plywood and topdresser, yet it allows required movement. The mechanics also plan to modify the platform by adding a box for the operator to store tools.

Platform dimensions are 34 inches by 18 inches by 6 inches. Materials used include:

- 11 feet of 1-inch-by-1-inch-by-0.120-inch-thick square tubing
- 34-inch-by-20-inch-by-1/2-inch-thick plywood
- 1-inch-by-1-inch-by-1/8-inch flat tabs
- 34-inch-by-8-inch-by-1/4-inch-thick, flat flexible piece of rubber

The square tubing cost about \$12, the flexible rubber mounting cost about \$10, and the remaining materials were in stock. Labor took about an hour and a half.



Spill prevention

Bob Pruneau, equipment manager at the Halifax Golf and Country Club (Old Ashburn) in Nova Scotia, Canada, built holders for 1-gallon mixed gas (2-cycle oil/gasoline) cans. The holders keep the cans from falling over and spilling mixed gas when transported in the dump body of John Deere Gators. Moving them to the outside of the dump body also provided more room to transport other supplies. The material used to build the holders is:

- One 1/16-inch-thick piece of flat steel, 5 inches by 24 1/4 inches. Bend each end up 90 degrees six inches from the end
- One 1/16-inch-thick piece of flat steel, 5 inches by 11 3/4 inches. Weld on one side at the top of the U shape.
- Two 3/8-inch rods 22 inches long. Bend them five inches from the end at 90 degree angles to form a U shape.
- Three 5/16-inch stove bolts, 1 1/2 inches long
- Three 5/16-inch lock washers
- Three 5/16-inch washers
- Three 5/16-inch nuts

Assembly tip: Keep the gas can holder bracket closer to the operator seat when drilling for the three mounting holes so the mud flap won't hit the opposite side. The operator raises the dump body slightly, places the gas can in the holder, then lowers the dump body back down. The dump body holds the gas can firmly in place.

After building a prototype, the holders each took about one hour to build. The materials cost about \$15, including materials already in inventory. **GCI**



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.