



A CLOUDY SUNBURST AT THE END OF NO. 9 RED FAIRWAY. RON FALASCETTI – CLUB MANAGER – BRIAR RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB, SCHERERVILLE, INDIANA. THANKS! RON

## E-15 UPDATE

Last month, The U.S. EPA announced it now will allow up to 15 percent ethanol to be blended with gasoline in motor fuel – but only for use in cars and trucks built since 2007.

The current allowable limit is 10 percent, and remains so for older vehicles, all motorcycles, heavy-duty vehicles and non-road engines – everything from leaf blowers to mowers.

However, this sets up potential confusion at the gas pump. Buyers could have to choose not only among octane ratings but also between E-10 and E-15. And while E-10 now is fairly common, stations are not required to offer it or the

new E-15 – and some already say they are going to sit out E-15 for now.

Even though the E-15 blend is intended for cars and trucks – indeed, it's technically illegal to use it in other engines – the small-engine lobby figures it'll nevertheless wind up in the hundreds of millions of chainsaws, leaf blowers, lawn mowing equipment, boats, all-terrain vehicles and the like.

The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI) recommends the following measures to protect your equipment and avoid voiding warranties:

**1.** Read and follow the owner's manual. The owner's manual will

clearly explain what fuels can be used to ensure a properly functioning product.

**2.** Do not put any fuel containing more than 10 percent (E-10) in small engine products, unless otherwise stated.

**3.** Be aware of gas pumps at local gas stations that offer both E-10 and E-15 or any other mid-level ethanol fuels dispensed by blender pumps for "flex-fuel" automobiles. Higher ethanol fuel (E-15) may be less expensive than regular (E-10) fuel. However, putting E-15 into an E-10 approved product could cause product failure and void its warranty.