

GOLF/GROUNDS

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Budget hike good for golf course

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Eight ways to keep fields in play

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Four keys to great bunkers

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Redesign speeds play at Duke

While shooting a round of golf this season, I noticed an oil leak on a green. It appeared every five feet or so, and went from one end of the green to the other, aprons included. This was some leak. It trickled along cart paths, fairways and greens. The entire back nine of the course was dotted with oil. That's no way to start a season.

It is just "one of those things" that can happen, and does. People get sick and can't come to work, or they get hurt, or they forget to look for oil

leaks, low fuel levels or that tree in front of them. Equipment breaks down and tires go flat.

Daryl Decker, superintendent at Arrowhead Country Club in Ohio (see article on page 2G) likens the mower/operator/golf course scenario to someone driving a BMW around on someone else's \$2 million investment.

Mowing can be relaxing and fun work. It can also become monotonous. The mind wanders, and the operator may not always be paying attention.

All you as a manager can do is instruct the operator in safe equipment operation and tell them to keep their eyes open. When accidents happen, or an oil leak is missed, all you can say is, "Please be more careful and attentive." (Which is better than saying, "You're fired!")

Prevention begins at the shop. Decker's mechanic, Bruce Metzger, gets to the shop well before the rest of the crew. He fuels up equipment, and otherwise gets the fleet ready to go. This is also the time to check for loose fittings or split hoses.

Here's another tip: paint equipment bays white. Oil or other fluids will show up better on the white paint.

And—in what could win you the award for grouch-of-the-month—insist that headset radios

not be worn by people who ride the large equipment. It just makes good sense.

The show season has begun! Where ya' goin' this year? There's lots of great national and regional shows out there, with information just waiting to be had. Take a look at what's coming up:

The Independent Turf and Ornamental Distributors show is in Naples, Fla., Oct. 16-20;

University of California specialists are looking into better pond and lake management, Nov. 9-10 in Santa Rosa;

The Penn State Golf Turf Conference Nov. 12-14 in State College, Pa., and the New York State Turf and Grounds Exposition is held Nov. 12-15, in Rochester;

The PLCAA/ALCA/PGMS Green Industry Expo is in Cincinnati this year, Nov. 17-21;

The North Central Turfgrass Expo is in St. Charles, Ill. Nov. 27-29.

Need I say more? Wherever you live, there's bound to be a show through the fall and winter within driving distance. So don't be a garage potato. Go to a show!

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'That mower you're driving costs \$25,000. Use with care.'



Terry McIver

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