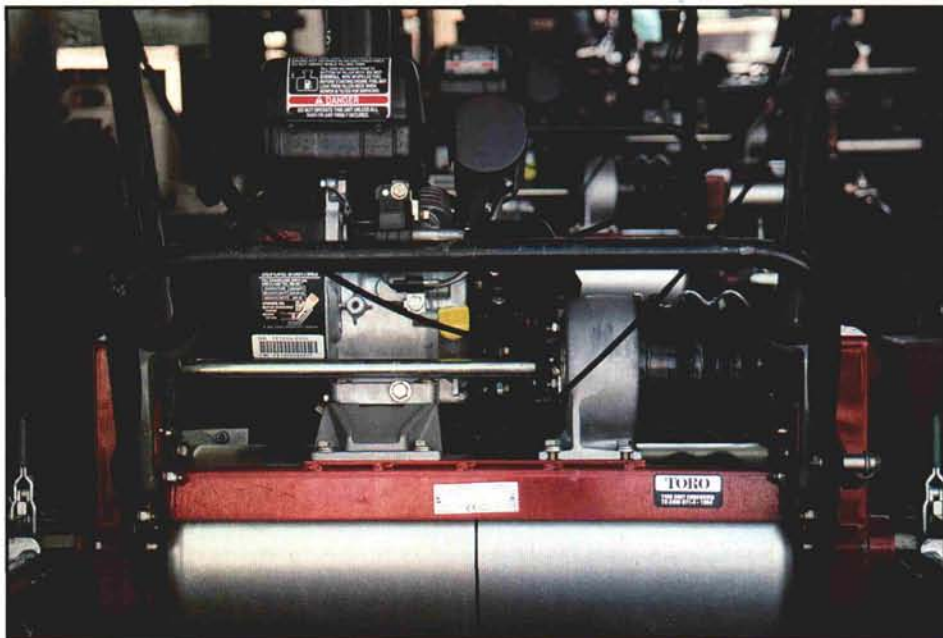


# 'OIL PAINTING'

*Color-coding dispensers and equipment fill ports effectively communicates the proper fluid each reservoir requires.*

by MIKE HUCK



*Color coded equipment fill ports and bulk dispensing units communicate to the operator the proper lubricant to use.*

**C**OMMUNICATION with employees is an ongoing and never-ending challenge for any golf course maintenance organization. Whether it is a chemical application technique, operation of a mower, or required daily maintenance of power equipment, the

proper training of each and every employee is paramount. Factor into this equation the time and effort required to train new seasonal staff members in northern climates or the need for an interpreter where language barriers exist with immigrant employees,

and these communication challenges can become overwhelming. What appears to be the simplest of daily procedures can become the most frustrating and time-consuming of problems. Just when you think that a new employee has a good grasp of his duties, *Murphy's Law* jumps right out and proves you wrong!

Take for example the simple task of topping-off an oil reservoir before using a tractor or mower. Sounds easy, but an untrained operator may wonder, "Does that unit require 10W-30W or 20W-50W?" Using the improper fluid can cause serious and costly long-term problems such as an ailing hydraulic system or, even worse, a blown engine. If the mechanic is not available to inform the operator which lubricant is needed, valuable time also will be wasted researching the proper specification. This scenario does not even take into consideration the waste of time, money, and effort that is required for the equipment technician to drain, flush, and refill a lubricant reservoir contaminated with the wrong product!

Paul Janosik, golf course superintendent at the Foothills Golf Course in Denver, Colorado, solved these problems when he and his staff developed the oil painting system. This very simple idea virtually speaks for itself. Each fill port on every piece of equipment is color-coded to match the coordinating bulk dispenser unit. No longer must an operator look up the lubricant specifications or have to bother a mechanic when performing daily equipment services. This system saves time for both the mechanics and operators, and eliminates the chance of the wrong fluid ending up unintentionally in any unit . . . providing none of the employees are color blind!

So do some oil painting in your shop and eliminate one more worry from both your and your mechanic's long list of potential problems.

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*As agronomist for the Green Section's Western Region, MIKE HUCK always color-codes his Turf Advisory Service reports to the golf courses he visits.*