

Superintendent's Update

22nd MAY 2011

The temperatures are finally warm enough that we are getting some recovery from the winter damage. Other superintendents around town and I have been talking about recovery and how slow it is going. Like I said in my first update "mother nature" dictates how fast things will recover and until the last week there was very little recovery. We are all tired of looking at dead and damaged turf with little sign of life but it looks like we have finally turned the corner with suitable temperatures for growing grass.

I intended to put out an update prior to starting the recovery process but it has been very hectic and now we are well into the process. I will explain what we have done and what we will continue to do. The greens were verticut and then mowed to remove some of the damaged turf and put small slits in the grass to accept bentgrass seed. On the 10th and 11th of May we slit seeded the bad spots on the greens in two directions using high rates of seed. After that a starter fertilizer was applied so that once the seed germinated it would have the nutrients available to start growing. Around a week later small grass blades had emerged. It is very important that these new seedlings are babied until they can support the normal wear and tear of mowing and traffic. To do that, we have begun mowing greens every other day and rolling on days that I do not mow. This will give the grass a chance to grow without stressing it too much. You may be able to see that some of the slits are filling in pretty well. I will give it some more time to see what we have got for recovery and may need to do some more seeding. We will be topdressing occasionally for a couple reasons, to smooth the putting surface and to give the bentgrass some soil to grow into. I will be increasing the fertility on the greens to encourage new growth and the healthy turf to creep into the bad areas. We will also be out watering during the day when the temperatures and winds are high to keep moisture in the new seedling. They are very susceptible to drying out because they do not have the root structure to pull moisture from below. As terrible as the last rains have been for golf, it is actually very helpful in the recovery process just as long as the temperature remain where they are. We will be doing a similar process to the fairways in the coming days to get them back on the road to recovery. The course is a long way off from where I want it to be but I am seeing progress.

If anyone has any questions feel free to call or email. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Rob Adams

Golf Course Superintendent