

we use Delavan cone nozzles and it takes us two tanks to cover the 4 acres of Tifdwarf bermudagrass. With the fieldjet nozzle it takes us three tanks.

8:50 a.m.

The second tank has been sprayed through No. 12 green and the spray tech is back loading up the last tank. Some of the other golfers are now chomping at the bit to tee off the back nine. We are still holding them up. Mr. H. has just made the turn and is playing No. 10. He has to play through.

9:05 a.m.

The spray tech passes 10 tee on the way to finish 12 green. I'm standing at the tee talking to a foursome of walkers about the charcoaling procedure as he passes. Now they can start because it will take them 30 minutes to get to 12 Green. In the meantime Mr. H. is now finishing No. 12.

9:15 a.m. - 9:40 a.m.

We finish 12, jump over to 17 then back to 13, over to 16 and 15 then back to 14 and finish with 18. All in which is done so Mr. H. doesn't play immediately after we spray. He doesn't mind anyway.

9:45 a.m.

I check back in with the pro shop. I check out tomorrow's golf schedule and get more news on Friday's men's tournament.

I also check in with the controller and see if there are any updates on budget meetings. This is the time of the year when our budgets are prepared and various meetings are set up for review. I also swing back out to the pump house to see how our PM work is going. Everything's fine.

10:15 a.m.

Back at the shop. My assistant has gotten the rest of the crew started on their other jobs for the day. I check messages on the answering machine and follow up with returning calls.

By this time of the day everyone knows what they are doing to finish the day.

I get back to scheduling work for tomorrow and let the mechanics know what equipment we intend to use. Weather has such a big part to play in what we will attempt to do tomorrow and in subse-

quent days so I check our satellite information service and the computer screen to see what fronts are coming or if there are any weather changes that may affect our work.

11:30 a.m.

Lunch time for the crew. My lunch time may vary depending on what I may be doing at the time and how long it will take but I like to have lunch around this time, too.

We have a group of us that usually eat around this time at the Grill Room in the clubhouse - the general manager, head golf professional, controller, bookkeeper and our executive secretary.

I may spend up to an hour depending on the conversation and the various discussions that take place about company work, jobs or personnel. Sometimes I may have a casual conversation with a member which helps establish an open avenue for member involvement.

12:30 p.m.

I check back with our Irrigation PM contractor and he has finished. He's ready to repressurize and do the final adjustments. Thirty minutes and we're through. The station is back in perfect condition.

1:00 p.m.

Back at my office I've got some more calls and need to order some liquid fertilizers for next week. I fill out the appropriate Purchase Requisitions and set them aside to be signed later by the greens chairman and general manager.

The mechanics let me know that there is a major problem with one of our hydraulic five-reel units.

We are trying so hard to get this piece to last until May when we can buy or lease a new unit and phase this one out.

It has been costing us an arm and leg to keep running. Cost analysis shows that we have already bought repair parts equaling to one third of the original purchase price into this machine since we purchased it five years ago.

2:00 p.m.

Around this time of day I like to make a run around the golf course to see how the day's activities have gone and how the greens look for tonight's irrigation, if any is done at all.

A few probes with the soil plugger shows the need for a cycle on greens tonight. I stop by the clubhouse again to pick up mail which usually comes in around 1 p.m.. Nothing unusual. The usual amount of junk mail.

As 3 o'clock approaches, the crew is in cleaning off the equipment and I usually spend time with my assistant to talk about tonight's watering and the schedule for tomorrow. Equipment is fueled, greased and prepped for tomorrow if it hasn't been done earlier in the day.

It's after 3 o'clock now and the crew has gone home. I usually spend some time relaxing and just thinking about what other events or schedules are upcoming. In our work with its great diversity and ever-changing variables, you can never do too much planning.

Time out: 4:35 p.m.

Working the Plan

BY PETE METCALF

*Golf Course Superintendent
The Vineyards C. C.*

The Vineyards Country Club is a 36-hole private country club with 750 golfing members. Our maintenance staff is made up of one superintendent, two assistants, one shop manager, one horticulturist and one crew foreman.

A typical day at the Vineyards begins at approximately 5:30 a.m. when the first people to arrive are the salaried employees. Yes, this even includes me, the superintendent.

My rationale for this early start stems from my belief that so often a well-thought-out schedule is doomed simply because weather conditions have changed from one extreme to another... overnight!

Therefore, rather than revising a schedule prepared for course conditions based upon the previous 24 hours, we schedule each morning following a quick check of current course conditions.

Once we have determined whether or not rainfall, temperatures or irrigation malfunctions have created unusual conditions, we go about the task of organizing crew assignments based on play and events previously scheduled by the golf staff.

These early morning course assessments are made before 6 a.m. by one or two members of the management staff while the others are rolling out the equipment and preparing for the arrival of the rest of the crew.

I meet with my staff in my office at 6 a.m. to go over the schedule to maximize productivity and avoid any operational conflicts. The old saying that "two heads are better than one" has been modified to "six heads are better than one!"

The staff meeting only lasts 15 to 20 minutes and provides everyone with the day's agenda, including the location of all operators and equipment. The majority of our operators are extremely reliable and follow directions to the letter.

If an occasional assignment is misun-

derstood, the collective scheduling effort allows any manager to quickly redirect the employee to the proper location.

All of our crew scheduling is done on a mass-duplicated form referred to as the daily setup sheet. This form lists all the tasks typically performed by our department which includes mowing, cup-changing and tee-marker-moving, just to name a few.

Having a preprinted schedule reduces the effort of making up the schedule and also helps prevent forgetting a routine assignment. All we have to do is fill in the crew members' names. These schedules also provide a good written record of who did what in case of a poor cut or undetected or unreported hydraulic leaks.

By 6:15 to 6:20 a.m. the assistant superintendent who actually writes the schedule for the week is now ready to assemble the crew, assign the day's tasks, and get them out on the course by 6:30 a.m.


The remaining staff, including me, goes out and changes nine holes of cups

while monitoring the work being performed and checking areas on the course that may need attention.

Our goal each day is to complete all routine tasks ahead of play. During the busy season all greens, tees, fairways, slopes and roughs are mowed before any play catches up. When our members tee off, 95% of the time the only equipment they will encounter is heading back to the shop for cleaning and refueling.

Before any crew member completes his or her first work assignment, one of my assistants will return to the shop and write up second job assignments on a centrally located chalk board.

The second jobs are taken from a list of projects that we have collectively discussed and prioritized. Usually by noon all first assignments have been completed and the crew has been reassigned to their final tasks for the day.

The staff can breathe a collective sigh of relief knowing that another day went smoothly, because we simply planned our work and worked our plan! 

George Elliott of Addison Reserve Uses Georgia Grass on His Greens

Here's Why!

"I first visited Millhaven Plantation when I had to renovate the greens at Mayacoo Lakes Country Club back in 1993. I was very impressed with the quality of their Tifdwarf and had them send me down a batch of sample sprigs. The samples looked good, so I ordered 3,000 bushels of sprigs to renovate 18 greens. We hydro-sprigged those greens and were playing on them in less than 7 weeks. Here at Addison Reserve we already have 18 greens in place, and we're putting in another 9 - all certified Tifdwarf from Millhaven. We also used Millhaven's Tifway on most of our fairways. I think the entire course looks and plays great."



**MILLHAVEN
PLANTATION**

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