

mowed three times a week during spring until Primo is sprayed, then we go to twice a week during late spring, summer and fall, and back to three times until daylight savings ends.

At that time it is usually done once a week to clean up divots until springtime.

The rough and banks are usually mowed once a week at 1 1/4". Bunkers, fences and the clubhouse area is Flymo work weekly.

Lakes and canals are done about every three weeks unless Primo is used. Then it is on an as needed basis.

Heights of cut pretty much stay the same on a yearly basis except the greens, which are raised to 1/4" during seeding and gradually lowered until we reach 5/32".

We have two Toro Greensmasters and two Jacobsen Greensking IVs for tees, collars, approaches, some small par 3 fairways, the practice area and the clubhouse area. One Toro Hydraulic Seven Gang is used for fairways—we can change height of cut quickly and mow banks and

some rough if needed when we get behind.

There's one Toro Parkmaster Seven Gang with ground driven reels for roughs and banks. We feel that we don't have enough bunkers (22) and miscellaneous areas for a trim mower, so Flymos and string trimmers do all that work.

We have four full-time employees, one part-time (20 hours per week), one mechanic and one landscape person, plus myself, on our crew. Everyone is mowing or changing cups on Monday, Wednesday and Friday so Tuesday and Thursday are days we use to spike, verticut, spray, fertilize and do other maintenance work.

Every full-time person usually has to work one day on the weekend unless we need more for a shotgun start or special tournament.

After morning work, bunker work, Flymo work, mowing banks and roughs is done from #18 backwards, so we only bother one group of players at a time. This schedule gives the mechanic time in the morning to do maintenance on the

big equipment and the afternoon time for the smaller pieces.

Clippings are caught on greens and tees, collars and approaches and scattered in the rough. Fairways that leave clippings early are usually removed later, or the operator starts later in the morning. This is not a problem when we use Primo.

The green mowing pattern is changed daily, while tees, collars, approaches and par 3 overseeded areas are striped during the season. Fairways are not striped but changed from right-to-left to left-to-right every other time.

If all we had to do was fertilize and mow grass here at Winter Pines, it wouldn't be too bad with our crew. But throw in all the curve balls Mother Nature has in store for us at times, and it can get pretty hectic. As with any operation, we have made changes and fine-tuned our schedule during the 17 1/2 years I've been here, and we will continue to do so in the years to come.

'Detailing' the golf course

BY LARRY DREW
AND RON SCHURK

Willoughby, G.C.

Two men are assigned to course grooming. They are the "detailers." One tends the front nine, one the back nine, and they team up to care for the driving range.

Each man has a golf cart equipped with a sand bucket for divots, a weedeater, loppers, pruning shears, hedge clippers, a blower, a machete, a weedpuller, a rake and a ten-gallon spray tank.

They also pull a small trailer to collect debris, etc.



Fully equipped Detail cart with long time employee, Larry Drew. Photo by Kevin Downing.



*Pine needle accumulation on the tees causes havoc to mowers and is unsightly. Detail personnel takes care of this problem before play gets there.
Photo by Kevin Downing*

Normally their pre-play routine starts by sweeping divots and tees from the range using a mechanical “Parker sweeper,” which is pulled behind one of the carts. Then fairway divots are filled and miscellaneous debris is picked up. It is also the time to trim fairway drains and irrigation heads as needed.

Once play begins, work shifts to areas that are less likely to interfere with golfers. These duties include filling the divots, trimming cartpaths, miscellaneous weeding, spraying beds and tree rings, and range work.

We are six weeks into the program, and it is starting to show results. Cartpaths are clear, tree rings and beds are sprayed and, although a great deal of work remains, at least a start has been made.



*Members recognize the need for special attention throughout the course. Each employee is assigned a select nine holes. Part time employee, Ron Schurk, works four days a week on the front nine.
Photo by Kevin Downing.*



*If a drain needs trimming, the detail employees have their equipment with them.
Photo by Kevin Downing.*



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