

Cypress Run

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CGCS

Cypress Run is a private, equity-owned golf club. We accommodate approximately 30,000 rounds of golf per year. Having such a limited number of golfers is helpful to our maintenance program. Our members understand that our practices are necessary and for their benefit.

Since we are a private club, we have the luxury of closing when necessary. From June through October the course is closed all day every Monday. November through May the course is closed until 10:00 a.m. every Monday.

We maintain approximately 110 acres of bermudagrass. All of our turf is 15 years old. Our 419 fairways cover approximately 30 acres. They are mowed all year a maximum of three times a week, usually Monday, Wednesday and Friday with two Toro 5100D lightweight fairway mowers.

One mower is used for each nine. The height of cut in the summer months (June through October) ranges from .437 to .5, depending on weather conditions. From November through May, when we have overseeded with perennial ryegrass, our height of cut is between .5 and .562.

We change our direction of cut each time we mow using the clock method. This helps us reduce grain and provide a smoother playing surface. For special tournaments we double cut as needed.

To produce continuous striping we will mow in the same direction for several days in order to "burn in" our stripes just prior to an event. This gives us the TV look, especially in the winter.

Most of our mowing is accomplished in the mornings by noon. In the afternoon, any clippings left on the fairways are either re-mowed or blown off with a

tractor-mounted 3-point hitch blower.

Our six acres of 419 tee tops and green collars are mowed all year a minimum of three times a week, usually on Monday, Wednesday and Friday depending on the weather. The height of cut corresponds with the fairways. The direction of cut is changed each time to help reduce grain and provide a smooth playing surface. The tee tops, green collars and approaches are all mowed with two Toro 3000 Greensmaster mowers using no baskets.

Operators are instructed to mow each set of tees on the hole in the same direction. To accomplish this, the operator picks a fixed point such as a tree, post or the center of the fairway with which to line up his mower.

Starting from the back tee he proceeds to make a down "pass" on that tee and each consecutive tee in a straight line to his reference point. The operator then mows the next pass as an up pass and so on until the tees are completely mowed.

No matter how the tee is shaped, the stripes will all match on each tee when viewed standing on them looking out to the fairway. This is usually done on Fridays and for special tournaments — it's also known as "tournament cut."

The green collars are mowed in two directions. The first pass is made clockwise, and the second pass is made counterclockwise. The collar is then mowed out to the approach for approximately four passes parallel with the green.

No baskets are used. The height of cut is maintained in conjunction with the fairways, usually between .437 and .562, depending on the weather and overseeding.

Our 419 rough covers approximately 70 acres. This includes all green slopes,

fairway rough and lake banks. The height of cut is between .75 and 1.125, depending on the weather and time of year.

For our large areas of turf we use two Toro ground-driven seven-blade pull-behind rough units. We have chosen this type of unit due to its dependability, lack of major hydraulics and its weight.

The operators mow their own nine first and then switch over to mow the other nine. They double cut in areas where they can maneuver. Two mowers are necessary in our situation to provide a level playing surface so that the ball sits on the grass instead of in it. This helps keep our rough tight most of the year.

For all other bermuda turf areas where the pull-behinds cannot mow, such as areas between the sand bunkers and the green or sand bunker fingers, we use a four-wheel drive Toro 3500 diesel mower.

Although this mower is large and has major hydraulics, it provides an exceptional cut when operated properly. The operator must be cautious using this mower on slopes and around tree rings to

prevent a tire burn on the turf. We have found that with this piece of equipment it is best to have only one dedicated operator.

Our greens are Tifdwarf bermuda that are maintained between .156 to .125, depending on the time of year, weather conditions and overseeding with 100% Poa Trivialis.

The greens are hand-mowed approximately 300 days of the year. They are not mowed on Mondays, giving them a day of rest and also enabling us to fertilize, verticut, topdress, etc. We own eight Toro Greenmaster 1000s with four of them being used daily and the other four as backup and for special tournaments.

The change to walkmowers was made in 1992 in order to eliminate the triplex cleanup tire ring and to prevent hydraulic leaks. All mowing is done in the early morning unless we are in the beginning of our overseeding, when we start mowing about 10:00 a.m. dry with no baskets, so as not to pick up seed.

Perimeters are mowed four out of the

six days, depending on stress conditions. The direction of cut is changed daily using the clock method. Our Saturday cut is 6-12, also known as the "tournament cut."

For special tournaments we will double cut and/or roll to accomplish the desired speed. We always mow with baskets except the day after granular fertilization. Operators are also instructed to empty their buckets frequently, especially before making their perimeter pass.

Throughout the year we use PGRs, especially on fairways in the rainy summer months. They are also used on bunker edges and tee tops. We recently used them on our greens at low rates to help with the mutations and contamination.

We were happy with the results and have now made PGRs a part of our overall maintenance program in order to help reduce mowing.



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