



termine if you want to “interseed” (mainly for color) or if you want a full-blown overseeding where you establish a solid bentgrass or poa trivialis putting surface. We always overseeded to establish a solid bentgrass surface. Years ago we seeded with a bent/poa trivialis mix but we found in late April and May, the poa would discolor as the temperatures rose. We then used only bentgrass. We targeted June as our transition month.

We always overseeded during the first week of October. For bentgrass to be fully established and growing laterally via rhizomes, you need 12 weeks. Usually by Christmas the seed was mature. We cut back on the fertility before Labor Day in order to slow the bermudagrass growth rate. Two to three weeks prior to overseeding we applied a starter fertilizer, liquid organic phosphorus. We have had the luxury of the club closing down during the first two weeks of October for seasonal preparations, including overseeding.

The Sunday evening before closing we verticut, spiked, mowed and sprayed the greens so that on Monday morning we could seed the greens in the dew and see our spreader tracks. We verticut with verticut reels mounted on our Toro Greensmaster 3000Ds. As our Tifdwarf greens got older, we verticut as many as six or seven times per green.

This is a critical call based on the green’s health, age and fertility. You need to get good seed-to-soil contact to help the seedlings root and establish quickly. After verticutting, we mowed to clean up and then spiked with our trap-rake-mounted spikers. At this point we applied Subdue fungicide to protect the seeds and seedlings from Pythium and then went home for the night.

The next morning we seeded into the dew, watered it in and, once the greens were dry, topdressed fairly heavily with a 90/10 coarse mix. After dragging in the mix, we fertilized with an organic greens fertilizer. Finally we sprayed the greens with a broad-spectrum fungicide and insecticide. For the next five or six days we kept the greens wet through a combination of irrigation and hand watering. Usually after four or five days, the seed began to germinate.

As we all know at seasonal clubs, we are judged by our greens from November to May. They are often the topic of choice on the cocktail circuit. Generally the decisions that you make and the actions that you take in September, October and November determine the success or failure of your whole season.

Being closed is extremely valuable to establishing an excellent putting surface. We would wait for seven to ten days until we finally walk-mowed the greens at 1/4 inch. For the next month we scouted for pests and mowed as little as possible. We tried to skip mowing on any weekday morning without dew. We waited a month before we began to lower the cut.

At this point we switched to a liquid-only fertilizer program, which included a program of liquid micronutrients and organics. This benefited us because, as the height of cut was lowered, the exposed dry, granular fertilizer affected ball roll and we would have to mow without buckets.

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Remember that good seed-to-soil contact needs to be made, but you still must have some bermuda around to protect and hold the new seedlings. Finally, watch your mowing heights. Mowing too low, too early can stress a good stand of grass. Don’t forget about your greens during the weekends and hopefully you’ll have a great stand of grass all season.

*Scott Bell, CGCS
Bent Pine Golf Club*

Winter Pines Overseeding

The past three years we have been overseeding the Monday after Thanksgiving because November is still a very

busy month while December and early January are slow. Also the greens were so nice in November we hated to start seeding into them. After last year, we have decided to seed around the first of November just in case. We have been using a mix of ryegrass and poa trivialis, but this year we will go with a blend of Sabre II and Winterplay poa trivialis on the greens.

We will start with 5 lbs./1000 sq. ft. of the poa triv blend and continue dusting the greens every week until we get the coverage we want, which is 12 to 15 lbs./1000 sq. ft.. This way we feel we can give our players a better putting surface with minimal disruption in shorter time frame. Some of our weak greens may get a little ryegrass to help them out. Collars and approaches will be seeded with 15 lbs./1000 sq.ft. of Brightstar perennial ryegrass. Tees will be overseeded with 15 lbs./1000 of Cutter Lowgrow perennial ryegrass. Three of our par-three fairways and the clubhouse area will be seeded with Brightstar ryegrass at 10 lbs./1000 sq. ft.. The rest of the fairways and roughs will not be seeded.

Primo has not been used yet on our bermuda for overseeding establishment. The shorter days, cutting back on nitrogen, and regular verticutting still seem to be working so far. The greens will be verticut in two directions and then lightly topdressed about a week before overseeding to establish a good seed bed. Tees, collars and approaches will be verticut one day earlier and mowed down to 3/8 inch. After seeding, these areas will be topdressed with an 80/20 soil blend and matted in with a rug. No topdressing will be used on the greens after seeding.

Mowing on greens will begin at about

1/4 inch and gradually be lowered to 5/32 after good establishment. All other areas will start at 1/2 inch and lowered to 7/16 inch until transition begins.

No pre-emergent herbicides will be used on greens, tees, approaches or any other seeded area. Poa annua has not been a big problem and any area that gets infested will be dealt with on an individual basis. Around the second week of November, one pass of XL granular will be applied with a drop spreader around all seeded areas. One pass of Barricade will be sprayed on slopes and outside the XL granular-treated areas. During the third week of November a 10-0-20 fairway fertilizer blend with Barricade will be spread on fairways and roughs with hand work in the tight areas.

A preplant greens fertilizer of 12-24-12 is usually applied at seeding and a liquid preplant is used as the seed begins to pop. Milorganite is used at half rates every other week depending on weather for the first two months. A second pre-

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plant application may be made in a month, depending on how much more seed needs to be added.

Usually on greens, IBDU at 0.5 lb./1000 sq. ft. along with liquid Ferromec and potash is used every other week during the season. All other areas receive similar treatments. Par-three tees might get a little extra.

The greens are spiked weekly with a Cushman pull-behind spiker. No other cultural practices are done until later in the season, when we verticut and double mow.

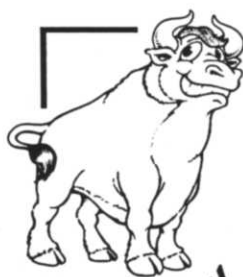
Spraying is done with Banol or Subdue as preventive Pythium control after the seedlings emerge. Preventive sprays are done every other week using Daconil

2787, Dithane or Cleary's 3336. Dithane or Fore are used after the seed is established for any necessary algae control.

El Niño caused us some weak turf and forced us to speed up our plans of rebuilding four greens this year sooner than we wanted. The new Heritage fungicide was a big help to our turf and we will not hesitate to use it sooner if poor conditions exist.

As most of you know, soil testing will tell you what other nutrients you might need for good turf. I will give some of the new wetting agents a try if needed. Let's hope El Niño doesn't rear its ugly head this year!

*Joe Ondo, CGCS
Winter Pines Golf Club*



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