



1998 Overseeding Questionnaire

Participants: John Kopak, Alaqua CC, Longwood; Jim Martello, Halifax Plantation, Ormond Beach; Mike Mongoven, CGCS, Fort Myers CC, Fort Myers; and Steve Pearson, CGCS, The Falls CC, West Palm Beach (Pearson no longer overseeds, but these were the programs he found successful).

1. Timing

a. When will you put down your seed this year?

Kopak: I've selected the first week of November. We don't have any special events scheduled. I feel early November is in the window of opportunity for good germination temperatures in case October is too warm or December is too cold. But we all know Mother Nature will determine the overall weather conditions.

Martello: Around Thanksgiving. I want the bermuda as inactive as possible.

Mongoven: Our dates are based on economics rather than agronomics. We will overseed greens the first week of December.

Pearson: I used bentgrass in our greens mix so I started in October and hoped for cool weather since bent takes longer to establish.

b. Will you put out the seed in split applications?

Kopak: Yes. I will start with 6 lbs./1000 sq. ft. and follow up with two 2-lb. applications for a total of 10 lbs./1000 sq. ft..

The timing of the second and third applications is based on weather conditions and how establishment is coming along.

Martello: No. We will put out all the seed in one application making four different passes across the greens. We will monitor thin areas and touch up as needed four to six weeks later.

Mongoven: Yes. We will apply the seed in multiple light applications, maybe until March 1. Last year we even applied later than that.

Pearson: No. As long as the rain forecast for the next five days didn't show any significant rainfall.

I felt the stand of turf would become denser faster and it was important to get the greens right as soon as possible before the members came back.

2. Seed Varieties

Kopak: On the greens I've been happy using Cypress poa trivialis for the past four years. I feel the costs are in line and the performance over a wide variety of conditions has been to my liking. On tees and collars we put down 21 lbs./1000 sq. ft. of Evening Shade perennial ryegrass in 7-lb. increments going three different directions.

The par-three and driving-range tees get an additional 7 lbs./1000 sq. ft. Fairways are seeded at 250 lbs./acre with the same ryegrass.

Martello: We use a total of 7.5 lbs. of poa trivialis. No more, no less. I'm growing bermudagrass and I want to protect my host plant. Collars are done with a ryegrass and poa trivialis blend at 200 lbs./acre. Tees: ryegrass at 400 lbs./acre. Fairways: ryegrass at 300 lbs./acre. We follow up on tees weekly and hand-topdress with seed/soil mix through January.

Mongoven: Greens: 85% perennial ryegrass/15% poa trivialis blend. Tees and around some bunkers: ryegrass.

Pearson: We overseeded greens only: 6 lbs. poa trivialis and 2 lbs. bentgrass per 1000 sq. ft. The varieties depended on what worked well in each particular area and what was available.

3. Establishment procedures

Including seed bed preparation. This includes use of Primo, verticutting, mowing, top dressing, pre-emergent herbicides, and fertility programs.

Kopak: Primo — I may use Primo on fairways if they're growing fast. I may experiment on a couple of greens this year to compare establishment success. I haven't used it on greens before. You should never try a new procedure on all your greens without testing it first.

We all know what works at one course doesn't always work the same somewhere else.

Verticutting — Two directions on greens and one way on tees two weeks before overseeding. Topdressing — One light straight sand application on greens and one medium straight sand application on tees prior to seeding. Pre-emergents — A band of XL granular is applied with a drop spreader around the outside of tees, collars and approaches. Then we make rotary spreader passes outside of that. We outline fairways with Barricade using only the center boom section.

Then we fill in the rest of the area with the total boom operation. Fertility — Pre-plant and establishment: 3-9-9 granular on greens and a liquid 10-34-0 at the rate of 1.0 lb. of phosphorus/1000 sq. ft. During the season: less phosphorus and more nitrogen spoon fed, alternating granular and foliar feedings. If fungicides are needed they can be added to the foliar mix along with sugar. I like to apply 0.75 lb./1000 sq. ft. of ammonium sulfate to the fairways every six weeks.

Martello: Primo — Since I go out later, I don't feel I need to use it. Verticutting — Ongoing normal routine. Not just for overseeding. Mowing — prior to seeding 5/32 inch. Raise height to 3/16 inch. Seed out on Monday. First mowing the following Saturday. Topdressing — Biweekly and the day we overseed. Pre-emergents — four to six weeks prior to seeding we use Pre-M to frame-in all non-seeded areas, two booms wide. We use XL close in and around bunkers. Fertility — No special preplant mix. During establishment a typical 1:1 N:K fertilizer with maybe a little Milorganite. Use our regular granular program the rest of the season. If it gets wet, we will apply foliar sprays to feed bermuda year round.

Mongoven: Primo — just beginning to use it on greens before seeding. Verticut — two directions the morning of seeding. Mowing — Double cut at .180 inch morning of seeding.

Five to seven days later depending on germination, mow in the afternoon at .225 inch. Continue mowing in afternoons for the next three or four days. Topdressing — right after seeding, using a sand/charcoal mix. Pre-emergents —

First of October apply Regalcalde and fill in with Barricade in hard-to-spread areas. Fertility — Granular 5-10-10 after seeding. Spray 9-27-0 after germination. Soluble fertilizers sprayed on 7-14 day intervals combined with granular program every two to three weeks, depending on analysis.

Pearson: Primo — Used to apply right after verticutting at 6 oz./acre. Verticut four directions, enough to leave slits showing. Mowing — Prior to verticutting 5/32; after overseeding raise height to 7/32. Continue for 10 days after germination. Used walk mowers with solid rollers.

Then in five-day increments, drop height 1/32 until turf is dense; then lower 1/64 at a time until .125 is reached or lower if desired. Topdressing — After overseeding heavy enough to “bed” the seed.

Very light applications weekly until reaching ultimate density. Pre-emergents — Been too long to recommend products or timing. Fertility — One-time pre-plant after verticutting and before overseeding.

A weekly foliar program would follow with a fungicide included. During the season twice per week a soluble slow-release fertilizer would be applied at .05 lbs. N per week.

4. What are some your management programs after establishment.

Kopak: Volunteer ryegrass is treated with TFC (Tall Fescue Control). I like to slice the greens every two weeks with a

deep slicer. This really saved our greens last year with all the rain we had. We topdress monthly. We roll the greens only for special events. Spray programs — I like to stay on a preventive fungicide program. Heritage is used during establishment. Mancozeb products used for algae as needed.

Martello: We mow daily with walk mowers, dropping in height from 3/16 to 5/32 with establishment. In the spring we start double cutting three to four times per week to encourage transition.

We slice biweekly during the season. In March we start a biweekly program of vertigrooming and topdressing.

No rolling. Spray programs are as needed only.

Mongoven: We mow with triplex mowers set from .200 to .175 inch. (Possibly lower if the stars are aligned properly!) No groomers. Roll twice a week. Verticut lightly starting in April every two weeks. Spray program — Normally don't use a preventive program. Last year was an exception.

Spray greens weekly with either a complete soluble fertilizer, micronutrients or a wetting agent.

Pearson: We would incorporate whatever it took to produce a good, true putting surface including topdressing, Primo and rolling (maximum twice a week). All was dependent on the health and vigor of the turf.

5. What are your plans for turf stress management in case of adverse condi-


tions like El Niño?

Kopak: Raise the height of cut and do more frequent slicing. I would rather hear complaints of slow greens than hear complaints of no grass to putt on!

Martello: Slice greens biweekly. If it gets real wet, increase to weekly slicing even daily if necessary. You have to keep them opened up when it gets dark and wet.

This practice alone has literally been our saving grace in bad winter weather conditions. Manage your irrigation watering very carefully.

Mongoven: Jog to relieve stress. Pray. On the turf, be quicker to apply fungicides.

Pearson: The height of cut has more to survivability than anything else. Continuously monitor soil temperatures, days of no sunlight, and water (rain) problems. Adjust height accordingly. 

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