



don't realize how much transition is due to mild disease pressure that also helps to thin out the overseeding during humid weather. Last spring I was seeing substantial overseeding on the greens into June until the temperatures sky rocketed."

De Matteo hasn't seen the need for any preemergent weed control so far on the young course.

"If we develop some severe *Poa annua* areas, I would consider spraying them out and reseed them since *Poa trivialis* will germinate at cooler temperatures than ryegrass. So far we just don't have a problem that warrants the time and expense."

Acknowledging the poor growing conditions that did befall the state last year, De Matteo said, "The best thing you can do for the turf is to raise the height of cut. In fact, my goal next year is to experiment with having good consistent greens without mowing them down to 1/8 of an inch or lower like we have done.

"In talking to our customers, I have heard them comment on how much they enjoy the course down the street. I know they aren't as manicured as we are, but they do have nice, thick turf on the greens. These golfers never mentioned the word 'speed.'

"When our greens fees go down in summer and we try to keep the greens on the edge, I don't think our customers really appreciate it. I'd much rather have good, consistent, healthy greens at that time of year without beating our heads against the wall."

Editor's Note: *The Celebration Golf Club and Community will also be one of the sites visited on the GCSAA Turfgrass Tour during the conference and show in February 1999. The Celebration Golf Club is managed by American Golf.*

You Can't Always Put Your Finger on What Happened

Spring transition is often an intangible process, and my results have ranged from, "When did it happen?" to "Why are the greens dirt?"

Fort Myers Country Club is a public golf course. Our greens fees go down in the spring and the number of players increases.

May is full of tournaments. This limits our ability to do any spring renovation.

What we try to do is have a seamless conversion from turf which is 80 percent perennial ryegrass and 20 percent *Poa trivialis* back to the host Tifdwarf bermudagrass. Through the winter we will spike weekly and lightly topdress every 2-3 weeks. We will start light verticutting on a weekly basis in March if the weather is warm.

Our height of cut for the season ranges from .175-.200 inches depending on the growing conditions. When we are pretty sure that the last cold front has passed through, we will lower our cut to .156 inch.

We don't change our fertility program except a slight increase to encourage the bermudagrass to cover thin areas more rapidly.

We attempt to control the emergence of volunteer ryegrass and *Poa annua* with a Barricade preemergent application in October. If we get some random germination around the first of the year, we will spray those areas with Kerb.

MIKE MONGOVEN, CGCS
Fort Myers Country Club

Transition Time Seems to Come Later and Later

It seems the transition time from overseeded turf back to bermudagrass has gotten longer and longer over the years. The new bentgrasses, *Poa trivialis* and ryegrasses have become more heat tolerant and seem to want to stay around longer than I would like. Other than the normal slicing, spiking, light verticutting, lowering the cut and other usual cultural practices, we have found a few things that work well for us.

When Daylight Saving Time goes into effect in April, we start applying one pound of nitrogen per week to encourage the bermudagrass. This fertilizer push is a combination of quick- and slow-release granulars and liquid forms of nitrogen. These applications continue on both greens and tees until we aerate around the first of June.

We like to wait until we have about a 60-70 percent bermudagrass base showing through the overseeding so transition isn't too quick. We also use wetting agents to get us through warm and dry spring

periods when the transition is too rapid.

No matter how much we plan or what methods we use, Mother Nature has a lot to do with the success of all these practices.

JOE ONDO, CGCS
Winter Pines G.C.

Healthy Turf at Overseeding Makes Transition Easier

Transition starts before you drop the first seed. Healthy bermudagrass in October and November usually means healthy bermudagrass in June.

A lot of superintendents are dealing with tournaments through April, which can limit the start of any transition program. At Isleworth we start grooming in March to enhance our green speed, not to thin our overseeding. However, it must have some thinning effect. We begin light verticutting and topdressing every two weeks until we aerify in June. Other than spiking once a week, we do not get any more aggressive with cultural practices until aerifying in June. I have aerified in March and April, but the benefit is not worth the loss of valuable playing time.

Patience is the key. Maybe the term should be "Summer Transition." If I have overseeding on the greens through June and into July, I am probably having a pretty decent transition. I am not talking about a lot of *Poa trivialis* and bentgrass, but enough that you just keep seeing it here and there until it is finally gone around Independence Day.

Fertilizing is another tricky issue. The longer you can hold off without applying a pound of nitrogen with a dry product, the better. Although we use cool-season grasses as annuals, they are perennials and given the chance to "harden off," they will.

Often when you are trying to give the bermudagrass a jump start, you are also feeding a plant that is already a little stronger and just as intent on surviving. Of course, this tiny bit of wisdom is really relative to your seeding rate. If you have more bermudagrass than overseeding, then push when you are ready. If you don't have more bermudagrass, be careful.

BUCK BUCKNER
Isleworth Country Club