

more likely to thin the turf on those areas.

Greens construction: Modified USGA greens, no gravel, 90/10 Canadian peat mix, no preplant, sprig rate 20 bushels/1,000 sq. ft.

Overall performance:

Drought tolerance is high; when localized dry spots develop, the greens get mottled and "ugly," but it's aesthetic only, and they recover without turf loss.

Cloudy, rainy periods can cause thinning of turf on slopes and perimeters, but verticutting is a contributing factor. Daconil and Mancozeb are used to prevent/treat algae on weak areas.

TifEagle goes off color during cold snaps, turning a mottled yellow followed by purple color, which fades with a return to warmer weather.

Ball roll is excellent, with good speed and true roll. Desired green speed is easily attained and maintained, provided that the mowing height is .125 or less, verticutting is frequent, and nitrogen use is limited to prevent excess growth.

Budget factors (fertilizer, sand, pesticides) are similar for maintenance of Tifdwarf, although equipment needs are higher, maintenance of equipment is more intensive, and labor to maintain the greens is higher.

Some of the specific problems at Pelican Sound include thatch accumulation, which has been significant, especially compared to Tifdwarf. TifEagle has a 3/4-inch layer of thatch or mat or "biomass." Whatever it's called, it is a frightening aspect of the grass, and causes the localized dry spots and hydrophobic conditions because water just can't get through that layer.

Fairy rings have been a problem as well, but that is probably not associated with the grass type.

Using the Toro Hydroject caused severe scalping of uneven ridges which resulted from the weight of the machine and the softening of the aerification; height of cut would have to be raised following its use. Ideally, the greens could be walkmowed at .125 or less; it's difficult to consistently get the best quality of cut at that height with the triplex.

Overall, TifEagle has performed even

better than I expected. Response has been favorable regarding the quality of the putting surface, even though aesthetically the greens do not have a lush bright green appearance due to our maintenance practices of verticutting, low height of cut, and low rates of nitrogen. I cannot say that TifEagle is a better choice than FloraDwarf or Champion, but I can say that I cannot ever go back to Tifdwarf.

At Jupiter Island: Extremely Dense and Sensitive to Shade; Slow to Heal

BY ROB KLOSKA

Golf Course Superintendent

Establishment/Grow-in Program

I highly recommend sprigging at 30 bushels per 1,000 sq.ft. to facilitate grow-in. We also had a mixture of Nitroform and coated potash incorporated into the greens mix.

This helped tremendously to push the greens. After sprigging we waited approximately 10 days and began verticutting and rolling with a one-ton roller.

Five to seven days after that we started cutting with walk mowers set at .175 inch. After two weeks we lowered the height .010 every week until we reached .125 inches. (*See sidebar for complete grow-in program*)

Routine Cultural Practices

I recommend using walk mowers all year. We used grooved rollers in warm weather and solid rollers in the cool season. Our height of cut for the winter golf season is .110 to .125 inches and we raise them to .125 to .145 in the summer especially when we have cloudy and wet weather conditions. We maintain stimpmeter readings of 9.0.

We do less actual verticutting and more brushing and grooming to manicure the surfaces. We topdress every week. During the winter season we use dry bagged sand spread with Lesco rotary spreaders. In the summer we use a Vicon spreader with the fertilizer spout.

The turf is so dense that water has a hard time penetrating... The grass grows vertically more than Tifdwarf. Seems slower to heal over. Suggest you have a large turf nursery for repairs. Watch out for root rot and Helminthosporium when the tropical season is active.

Our fertility program consists of foliar applications all winter of 28-0-0 Coron, monopotassium phosphate, and Regal Maxi-Green. In the summer we apply 13-4-13 with Nutralene at .5 to .75 pounds per 1,000 sq.ft. per month and 0-0-30 at 1.0 lbs per 1,000 sq. ft. per month. I am experimenting with a Grigg Brothers product in weak shaded areas.

I recommend a monthly core aerification during the summer months with small hollow tines. In the winter we aerify with a Toro Hydroject. We spike almost every week.

Irrigation: I try to dry out the green's cavity. Then water heavily to promote the root system.

General Comments

The turf is so dense that water has a hard time penetrating. It is extremely sensitive to shade. The grass grows vertically more than Tifdwarf. Seems slower to heal over. Suggest you have a large turf nursery for repairs. Watch out for root rot and Helminthosporium when the tropical season is active. And last, you must have a good mechanic and extra sets of bed knives. 