Hammering away at a maintenance nightmare

Burning Tree CC staff solves drainage problem

BY STEVEN RENZETTI

The ultimate in deep-tine aerification? That's what a seasoned and sympathetic maintenance worker might have thought we were up to last fall as a jackhammer rammed up and down through the surface of the 15th green at Burning Tree Country Club in Greenwich, Conn.

Either that, or maybe we'd just spent too much time around the 19th hole.

But as crazy as we may have appeared, there was a method to our madness.

Developers built Burning Tree's greens from native soil back in 1962. Subsurface drain tile was omitted. That was covered with filter fabric overlaid with 10 inches of top mix. Even though the rest of the green was formed from native soil, we went with a 80-15-5 topdress mix over the reconstructed area to maximize water percolation into the drain tile.

Such a sandy top mix could have created an impermeable layer between the native soil and new materials. To reduce the likelihood of that occurring, we added a wetting agent and high-phosphorous fertilizer to help the roots dig deeply into the soil.

Solid-tine aerification over the trench area helped further break down any possible layering in the resodded area.

So we were better off, I dared say, to drench the drain tile. Today, the 15th green is one of the better and more consistent greens on the course.

Rather than surfacing in one spot, the iron-laden liquid created a large, soggy patch measuring almost 30 square feet. This created an inconsistent green, where it was near impossible to maintain quality grass.

With Naiad, you can keep your turf green and irrigate less because...

The pressure is on. You're expected to conserve water, reduce your irrigation costs and still maintain the lush, spring-green appearance of your golf course.

No, you don't need a miracle—just a Naiad injector system.

The Naiad method is the easiest way to quench your turf's thirst and conserve water, reduce your irrigation season. For more information, call us toll free at 1-800-541-6662.