“We’re either had an unusually wet and cold spring, or we’ve been spoiled by good weather the last four or five years,” said Mike McBride, who would be a crew of people on Frost Patrol from early May until after the Memorial to prevent frost from killing the thousands of annuals planted during that time. “AccIDENTS are not hardy. We try to keep the air temperature around them warm enough with irrigation,” he said.

McBride has worked at Muirfield Village since its construction, at which time he was a political science major at Bowling Green State University. Deciding against politics, he completing Rutgers University’s two-year turf management program, then returned to the grounds crew in Dublin, earning a promotion to superintendent in July 1985.

McBride said a lot of time, energy and funds were devoted the last year to a major project started three years ago. “The Penncrest bentgrass greens were stripped, resodded with washed sod, and returned to their original contours, with “minor modifications to create some more pinning on the greens.”

Ever seen a golf course quad-cut? If all goes well, McBride’s crews will double-cutc the greens in the morning and again at night during the tournament, so they will Slump over 11.

“We set up a fertilizer program so our growth will be at zero by the time the tournament comes around,” he said. “You don’t want a flush of growth around tournament time.”

MADE-FOR-TV PREPARATIONS: Television won’t pick a lot of the work crews have done; McBride said. They planted more than 200 ornamental trees, including dogwoods, Easter redbuds and Hawthorns that bloom in mid-May to June to “add a splash of color.”

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“THINGS TO LOOK FOR: “I think we’ve been able to do a good job of keeping poa annua out,” Williams said. Since the course was built, he has kept poa in check with pre-emergent treatment — to the point only one green has poa annua and that one just two to three percent.

Meanwhile, Stonebriar and other courses have a phenomenon called spring dead spot and no one knows why it’s there or how to cure it,” he said. “It looks like brown patch — a one-foot-diameter circles in Bermuda-grass. Since Bermuda-grass grows so quickly, Williams hopes there will be few dead spots by show time, May 28-29.

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