The further north a golf course sits, the shorter its season becomes. By the end of spring, the course must be ready to start paying the bills. Dormant seeding is a common practice to prepare the turf for the dormant period. Mike DeYoung, superintendent at Glen Arbour Golf Course, said dormant seeding is "savory" money and headaches. He has used Evergreen covers and the nonbreathable ice shield "with less success." In our climate, with a short golf season, covers have become a valuable tool for a lot of people," DeYoung said. "A project near here dormant-seeded with Evergreen covers and I think they picked up three to four weeks on the back end."

There are more reasons to dormant seed than over-seeding a cool-season turf into a stand of the warm-season grasses. "Dormant seeding is being done more and more because of time constraints," said agronomic consultant Terry Buchen of Williamsburg, Va. "Developers are willing to gamble if they are running late because of bad weather or for whatever reason. During the spring, sometimes it's so wet you can't get out and seed. And I've never had it." A former president of the Canadian Golf Superintendent's Association and former superintendent at nearby Hartlen Point Forces Golf Course, DeYoung used a new method for dormant seeding last fall on his newly built greens.

His pre-planting routine was similar to summer seeding, with phosphate and micronutrient and starter packages. Once the bentgrass seed was planted, DeYoung's crews laid down a four-mil greenhouse membrane product over each green. They stapled the membrane around the edges of the green, then sodded the collars up over the top of the membrane. The greenhouse material was bought in 24-foot sections that DeYoung had glued by a greenhouse salesmen so there were no seams and no water could get beneath it. "In the spring we simply lifted the sod off the polyethylene [membrane] and pulled the poly off." DeYoung said he had never used polyethylene before. He had used Evergreen covers and the nonbreathable ice shield "with less success." In our climate, with a short golf season, covers have become a valuable tool for a lot of people," DeYoung said. "A project near here dormant-seeded with Evergreen covers and I think they picked up three to four weeks on the back end."

The Whys of Dormant Seeding
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Winterization and freeze protection of variable speed pumping systems

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Winterization and freeze protection of variable speed pumping systems
Overseeding continues to evolve for supers

Continued from page 21

thing, and 2) the type of grass to use is a

Timing, timing, timing," said golf
course agronomic consultant Terry
Buchener of Williamsburg, Va."Many times
it's done too early. My advice: Overseed
as late as possible so [the overseeded
grass] does not compete with the Ber-

Conktinued from page 21

muda." 

I only see perennial ryegrass for fair-

works like a mule. 

The new

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Mustang:

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Spend less time aereating,
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golf course fairways, tees and greens. And
you'll still get the unique, patented shattering
effect that is exclusive to Verti-Drain®. With the
heaving action, each tine is forced backwards
underground, shattering the soil so air and
water can move freely, strengthening roots and
helping grasses resist pests, weeds, disease,
drought and hard play.

The new, faster Mustang is the real thorough-
hred in the field. Call today to find out more
details.

Aeration

Continued from page 21

is pricey to repair, if the unit can be
repaired at all.

Removal of a surface aeration sys-
tem is fairly simple. Most systems will
either be anchored to the pond bottom or
moored to the shoreline. If it is
anchored, disconnect the anchoring
lines from the unit and flip the unit
upside down. The unit will then be
covered by only four inches of water.
At this point it can either hoist it
at a boat or towed to the shoreline.

If a system is moored, remove the
mooring on one side of the pond, then
the other. Carefully tow the unit to
shore.

In either
case, if the
power cable
has a quick
dis-
connect,
move
it
from
the
unit
and
place a protector cap on the end. You
will want to anchor the cable and moor-
ing lines to a buoy for easy retrieval
and re-installation. A plastic milk jug
works well for this task.

Once the system is removed, minor
maintenance should be completed.
Clean the intake valve screen with a
brush and rinse out any silt build-up
on the bottom of the unit.

A damage inspection of the unit and
power cable should also be performed
at this time.

If the power cable will remain in the
water during cold months, it is advis-
able to cap the quick disconnect.
If it is a unit that incorporates oil
into its motor components, this is an
ideal time for an oil change. Consult
the owner's manual for this and any
other recommended scheduled main-
tenance procedures.

Certain aeration systems can remain
in the water during the winter. These
include oil-cooled units, sub-surface
units (when equipped as an aspirator)
and Air-Flo systems (so long as there
are no mov-
ing parts in
the water).
Sub-surface
units may re-
main in
the water as long
as they are
placed deep
even to
not get frozen in.

It may be necessary to leave an oil-
cooled system in the water during
freezing temperatures to keep an area
free of ice. In this case, it is highly
recommended that the unit be con-
verted into a circulating cooler for that
time. This is a high-
maintenance
situation. If the
power shuts
down and the
unit freezes in,
you must not
run it until the
ice clears or severe motor
damage may occur.

It is advisable to run these units 24
hours a day, every day, to prevent ice
accumulation and damage.

When spring is finally sprung, your
aeration system will be in prime con-
dition and ready for
re-installation.

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The type of turfgrass used in overseeding
has evolved from poa annua dominating the scene, to
perennial ryegrass, then poa trivialis, and now
with stress being put on speed and fine texture —
mixes of poa trivialis and/or bentgrass.

Verti-Drain's unique, patented shattering
effect.