FLOOD PLANS
At first glance, flood control may not seem like a big issue in a desert region like Las Vegas, but with localized thunderstorms capable of producing a year's average rainfall in just a few minutes, the potential for trouble is real. Picture here, crews at Southern Highlands Golf Club, which will open in December, bury a 48-inch drainage pipe to handle the run-off produced by even the largest projected storms. In addition to adding a measure of safety, the massive drainage pipe will help provide members of the private club with better playing conditions year-round by enabling the course to shed excess irrigation water and rainfall more quickly.

“With the warm-season grasses (zoysia), we don’t do anything to them after August. The first frost goes off-color. We do all the verticutting and aerifying to the zoysia in the summer months. In September we raise the zoysia’s height of cut.”

“We put applications of iron and sulfate of potash on all types of turf in late September and early October.

“We overseed the bluegrass roughs with the new tall fescues in the fall. The bluegrass just isn’t suited for this Transition area. We’ll overseed any spots that need it. There will be quite a few this year because of the hot weather we’ve had. Then we’ll do late-fall fertilization on the cool-season grasses.

“We aerify all the new tall fescue green banks in September and overseed them before doing an October fertilization.

“If the fall is real dry, we watch the zoysia going into the winter. Most of the zoysia here is lost in February and March. If it warms for a week that time of year, the zoysia comes out of dormancy, dries out and dies when the temperatures turn real cold again. So you have to think of not letting that zoysia go into the fall in a real dry state.

“The landscaping plants may receive an anti-transpirant in November that coats the leaves so they don’t transpire and lose as much moisture.

“With the zoysia dormant and the overseeded bluegrass roughs, carts are required to stay on the paths through winter. We time the cart-path only rule to the frost.”

“October is time to overseed all Bermudagrass areas, harden off warm-season grasses with high P-K fertilizers, and aerify cool-season grasses.

“In November we make the last checks of the irrigation system before drainage. We check the heaters in the restrooms and pump stations. We apply any post-emergent poa controls and winter annual controls. The outdoor water fountains are removed and spring bulbs planted (pansies for winter color).

“December means ordering sand and de-icer, checking lawn blades and sand spreaders, and conducting the last cool-season fertility measures.

“We order parts for the winter overhaul of equipment, purchase supplies for winter projects, and prepare a crew training schedule.

“January is a time to relax and cut back to a 50-hour work week, unless it snows — then it’s 60 to 70 hours. Business as usual.

“February means warming up the irrigation system, preparing for spring, and doing the first work we don’t get to normally. It is the time that we do our damage comes from pink snow mold. Normally I’d do that in late August.

“I’ll order my snow mold control the week before the big compressor head up to the ski areas to make snow for the winter.

“I order my snow mold control the first week in September. The majority of our damage comes from pink snow mold. We’ll probably start those applications the third week of October. After that, the opportunity for good spraying becomes limited.

“I’m sitting on the fence about dormant fertilizing. The risks may be starting to outweigh the benefits.

“Last fall, particularly in Southern New England, grass came out of dormancy in early December while it still had fertilized on it. It softened up, soaked up some of the nitrogen, and some guys ended up losing greens. Normally I’d do that in late November.

“We’ll put turf covers on 10 of our greens around Thanksgiving, before the ground freezes, which makes it so hard to get those staples in. We’ll stake and rope off the greens to keep the cross-country skiers and snowmobilers off. And we’ll put rigid insulation over the irrigation heads about then.”

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**Winter prep reports nationwide**

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Beachwood Resort</td>
<td>Kansas City, Mo.</td>
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