

PEER-TO-PEER: BETTER TURF THROUGH NETWORKING

MGCSA Superintendents were asked:

Considering the oddities in winter weather that our region experienced last year, what were your spring observations and will you change your program for the upcoming winter?

At **Deer Run Golf Club** we came through winter pretty good, but if I had any idea how long it was going to take for our damaged areas to fill in this year I would have used more seed/soil and sod.

- Barry Provo
Deer Run Golf Club, Victoria

At **Marshall Golf Club** we had relatively no snow cover during the better part of the winter season of '07 and '08. We experienced minor turf loss on No. 14 green and our driving range green, both of which are fully exposed to harsh winter conditions. I use leafshield and apply my winter protection chemicals as late as I possibly can. This approach has worked exceptionally well for us, and gives me some extended protection into early spring. With close monitoring of the weather and its drastic changes during late fall we have been successful in this approach. I think the only thing I may do is to strengthen my leafshield applications on a few of these areas and maybe add a snowfence of about 2' in height in these areas.

- Kurt Hovaldt,
Marshall Golf Club, Marshall

At **Heritage Links Golf Club** I will be seriously considering some type of cover for our putting green. The past winter's severe cold caused some small low temp damage to this one location.

- E. Paul Eckholm, CGCS
Heritage Links Golf Club, Lakeville

Last season at **Bully Pulpit Golf Club**, due to tournament scheduling, we did a later aerification than I like to do, and we lost some turf partly because of that, and a warmer winter than usual. That will be moved up significantly to alleviate any open wounds or thinned turf on putting greens. As far as the rest of the course goes, we'll be trying to put it to bed as dense and wet as every other year. I will definitely be changing the number of greens we cover this fall. We're going to again be using wood fiber mulch applied through a hydroseeder, but this time, we'll cover all greens that came through poorly over the past winter. Other things we'll be doing is moving a few applications forward to harden them off a bit more. And, we'll be watering as much as possible to limit the drying of crowns and canopy to

much.

- Kyle Fick
Bully Pulpit Golf Club, Medora, SD

Yes, with the long winter we experienced this past winter at **Ely Golf Club**, I plan on spending copious amounts of time chasing around (See photo below).

- Justin Gustafson
Ely Golf Club, Ely

At **Montevideo Country Club** I had some desiccation on a few greens. I will probably use an antitranspirant. I might even try to use some brush to help keep some snow on the greens out in the open. We get a lot of wind out here.

- Jeremiah Niebolte
Montevideo Country Club, Montevideo

Besides re-routing some of the ski trails at **Como Golf Course** I will stay with the same program I have used in the past. We came out of winter in good shape. We treat the greens for snow mold with Instrata in October and in November we use PCNB and an anti-desiccant as late as possible. We topdress greens rather heavily, fence in the greens to keep out the skiers. We then spray the tees with anti desiccant and fence off some areas of the tees to control skiers. I also cover a few areas on the tees and greens that have been desiccated in the past. As for the spring the skiing delayed spring green up, somewhat, but only on areas with a lot of Poa.

-Stephen R. Dinger
Como Golf Course, St. Paul



Justin Gustafson, Superintendent at Ely Golf Club, knows what he plans on doing this winter.