

PEER-TO-PEER: BETTER TURF THROUGH NETWORKING

Superintendents were asked: Do you provide players tips and pour jugs of soil and seed?

At Indian Hills, we provide the divot sand on our golf carts. We don't put seed in them though. We prefer the golfers to replace their divots; in cases where it is not possible to be replaced they can use the 80/20 in the bottles.

- Charlie Schultz
Indian Hills Golf Club

We don't supply our players with anything on their carts. Most people don't use the divot mix left on tee boxes. We encourage our staff members to fill divots with extra time before a lunch break, or before the end of the day if they have only a small period of time to kill. Otherwise, we'll go out and cram in a bunch on super busy days, and in the fall, we have a large group of volunteers come in, and we break them up and they walk shoulder to shoulder, filling them all as they go.

- Kyle Fick
Bully Pulpit GC

No, we do have Tee caddies with sand and seed mix on our tees.

- Walt Braunig
Thompson Oaks Golf Course

At Midland Hills we provide soil containers for players who take carts. The golf shop staff maintains the containers, but we store the sand mix for them in our building. Seed is no longer used, as players would fill their rough divots with the bentgrass/soil mixture. My staff gets around the course every day to fix the tee divots and every two weeks to fill the fairway divots.

- Ben Just
Midland Hills Country Club

At St. Cloud the grounds staff fills all divots on fairways and tees. There are seed and soil buckets on the par 3s but we find that they do not fill all the divots so we do it as well. I would rather do it because the players end up not using enough or using too much. We use a 2-1-1 soil mix on tees and fairways.

- Dan Hinton
St. Cloud Country Club

We do not provide seed/soil to our members on the carts or on the tees. Our staff manages the filling of divots on tees and fairways. I have been against having buckets on any tees. When do they end up empty? Late in the afternoon when the staff is gone or late on a weekend, I don't want to deal with that complaint so we do all the filling ourselves and avoid the complaints of empty containers and we know the divots are getting filled everyday and are done properly.

- Jeff Johnson
The Minikahda Club

We encourage players to replace divots throughout the golf course. We don't provide seed and soil tubes for fairways. Our maintenance staff fills divots on fairways with a bentgrass seed/3-1-1 soil mix weekly. We also prepare seed and soil mix for tees and practice areas daily, that is used by tee service staff and offered to players in containers on the tees.

- Mike Brower
Minnesota Valley Country Club

At Hong Kong Golf Club we have tip and pour bottles on all golf carts. We mix our own greens sand for use on filling divots on tees and fairways. We provide the golf cart staff with

the dyed sand on an as-needed basis which they use to replenish the bottles. Walkers are provided with a small sack of green sand which can be attached to a pull cart or trolley.

- Randy Witt, CGCS
Hong Kong Golf Club

At Windsong we ask the players to replace their divots. Periodically, the grounds staff will systematically patch divots with a soil and seed mixture.

- Scottie Hines, CGCS
Windsong Farm Golf Club

At Chisago Lakes Golf Course we do have soil and seed jugs on the power carts. The rangers maintain the bottles and the maintenance staff fills a large container weekly that the rangers fill from. The rangers fill fairway divots with a Greensmate divot container. Also we use the divot made containers on par 3s and other tees that get a lot of divots.

- Brian Brown
Chisago Lakes Golf Course

No, we do not provide seed bottles, we had some a few years back and these are the problems we encountered. Seed would grow in the bottles, people would use them as ash trays, and our fws are blue and my tees are bent so people would use them on both.

- Tim Wicklund
Cedar Creek GC

We do not provide any jugs for the players. We don't fill the fairway divots at all. As a result of the quick healing and durability of Blue/Rye Grass, we do not see an excessive amount of fairway divots, even with 35,000 rounds played. The tees are another story. We provide soil and seed containers with scoops on the white tees and use the maintenance crew to fill divots at least two times per week depending on amount of play. The mix used to fill our divots is 50% sand, 50% peat blended with seed using the skid loader. I love Blue/Rye tees and fairways!

- Eric Peters
North Links Golf Course

We do provide seed/soil jugs on golf carts. Jugs are filled and maintained by golf staff with divot seed/soil prepared by the grounds department.

- Doug Mahal
The Jewel Golf Club

We provide the pour jugs for our guests and members; our staff fills them as they come back in. We use a mixture of sand and peat and seed. We have approximately 50 of them. Filling in the divots does help our course. Plus we have an adopt-a-hole program here as well, and members go out weekly and fill divots and fix ball marks on their designated holes.

- Tadd Usher
Assistant Manager, Headwaters CC

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Peer-to-Peer-

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In my past life we had a very difficult time with divots. With the bunch type and slow growth habit of the fine fescue/colonial bentgrass mix on fairways and tees it was difficult to keep the fairways and tees from looking like a bomb went off. After a fair amount of grumblings from the crew about "topdressing" (that is what I called it, it didn't sound as tedious as "filling divots") we ended up hiring an individual to do it all. He would come in Monday through Friday and immediately head out and hit all of the landing areas and par 3 tees. Along with this he was also responsible for picking up all of the divots that could not be put back anywhere. We would still try to encourage all divots to be replaced but when we would drag fairways we would inevitably kick some divots up. We had three 30-gallon garbage cans behind the maintenance facility located next to the cart staging area, and the cart guys were responsible for filling the bottles but we would make up the mix. The mix was our construction sand (mason sand) with milorganite and fine fescue seed. I liked using only the fine fescue seed so the mix could be used in the rough as well. I still would rather see all divots replaced when

applicable; however I think that part of course etiquette may slowly be fading. I have seen it way too much where a golfer hits a shot and immediately looks for the sand bottle without even attempting to find the divot and put it back, aarrgghhh. Great topic, I am excited to see the replies.

- Tod Blankenship
Oregon State University

At Alexandria Country Club, we provide seed and soil mix to our members. The pro shop staff fills the bottles. We provide the mix. In addition, the green maintenance staff seed and soil fairways. Also, players who seed and soil are directed to pick up and dispose of the divot.

- Donnacha O'Connor
Alexandria Country Club

Somerby provides a mixture of sand/peat (60/40), dyed green in tip and pour jugs. The clubhouse staff is responsible for keeping the jugs full. We have jugs on carts and for walkers. We have members that have adopted holes that they monitor for additional divot repair, and we have a monthly divot filling event with the members. We provide beverages and they contribute to the maintenance of their course.

- Eric Counselman
Somerby Golf Club

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