

Sand Greens: Warning! Proceed With Caution!

by Roger Kisch
Southview Country Club

In 1980, after much discussion with the Board of Directors and Green Committee, Southview Country Club decided to rebuild two of its worst greens. After a great deal of thought, I consulted with local experts and decided to construct these greens out of a high percentage of sand.

Although we had the soil tested and built according to university specifications, the greens were unmanageable and unplayable the next three seasons. The following are just some of the difficulties I encountered:

1980 . . . Seeded May with Penneagle
. . . Cut first time May 19
. . . Opened June 20 but turf wasn't ready — too thin grass didn't have any body.

. . . Played "temporaries" off and on during July and August — turf wouldn't thicken up, found P.H. too high. Calcium and Mg. too high also. Initiated treatment program.

1981 . . . Started second season on new greens.
. . . Continued to bring P.H. back in line.

. . . Applied all nutrients, etc. "in the book" and nothing seemed to work.
. . . Applied nitrogen — turf got soft and lush.

. . . Did not apply nitrogen — greens didn't grow or fill in.

. . . August obtained professional assistance from University of Minnesota. They believed it was micronutrient deficiency. I tried many, but with no response.

. . . Playing temporary greens again and members began losing their patience.
. . . September USGA Turf Advisory made a visit and suggested a soil test by Texas A&M. Results: High silt and clay content as well as high fraction of coarse sand in mixture. Infiltration rate from 0.0 inches to 0.6 inches per hour. (USGA Spec, 4 to 10 inches per hour).

. . . USGA suggested rebuilding both greens. Membership would not tolerate any more inconvenience. Therefore, USGA advised aerifying, removing cores and topdressing with different sand.

1982 . . . Beginning third season with greens continuing in poor condition.
. . . Aerified and topdressed 7 times this season . . . Greens improved slightly following each aerification, but turf still not in good shaps.

. . . Played "temporaries" a week or

One Approach to Establishing Zoysia Fairways

by Gerry Gerard
Superintendent, Bretton Woods Recreation Center

This spring in conjunction with Summit Hall Turf Farms, we at Bretton Woods began the process of establishing a Meyers Zoysia grass fairway. The fairway at the sixth hole, which is a par 3, has approximately 16,000 square feet and was picked for this renovation program.

The installation process seemed slow because of bad weather which kept us from devoting our entire time to this project. A single-row hydraulic plugger that was built by the staff at Summit Hall Turf Farms was used for cutting the holes in the fairway that would later receive the Zoysia plugs. The machine cuts a 2-inch plug on an 8-inch center and deposits the discarded plugs into a box for easy removal and dumping. Then the pre-cut Zoysia plugs are placed into the open holes by hand. When this is completed, the entire fairway is rolled to ensure a good level surface. The entire process took about 72 man hours to complete. I believe that this time could be reduced if a larger area were to be done. The plugging was done at the end of March when the Zoysia was still dormant, and it wasn't until mid-April that the Zoysia began to green up.

The tests that will be compiled this year on the establishing process include the following: 1. Test plot treated with Roundup prior to plugging; 2. Test plot treated with Betasan; 3. Test plot treated with Ronstar; 4. Test plots with different nitrogen applications.

As an alternate method of establishing Zoysia fairways we will try to sprig Zoysia into existing fairway turf sometime around the end of May or the first of June.

Hopefully these programs will give us a better insight into a more economical way to establishing Zoysia fairways than strip sodding.



so this season — greens slightly improved by fall.

. . . P.H. almost okay.

1983 . . . USGA persists in their opinion to rebuild the greens but agree they are improving slightly.

. . . I continued aerifying program 3 times in 1983 because I hoped to build some thatch.

. . . Fall — greens are almost acceptable state, have changed soil top 2 to 3 inches. Starting to see roots over 1 inch for first time since initial seeding.

SUMMARY: I knew I was gambling when I constructed these greens with high sand content, but I never imagined that it could have been so difficult to grow grass on them.

This article just touches on the problems that Southview Country Club experienced with these greens. So when planning construction, proceed with caution and get more than one expert's opinion — and make sure you use the right sand!

Reprinted from *Hole Notes*, Minnesota Golf Course Superintendent's Association.

NEW MEMBER

Wade Barrett, Class B
Superintendent
Poolesville Golf Course
Poolesville, Md.

Meeting Schedule, 1984

June 12 — Green Spring Valley Hunt Club
July 10 — Piney Branch Golf Club
August 14 — Annual Picnic at Bretton Woods
September 11 — Chevy Chase Club
October 9 — Maryland Golf & C.C.
November 13 — Hobbits Glen
December 11 — Lakewood C.C.

Match Play Second Round will be June 12

The second round of the match play tournament will be played on June 12 at Green Spring Valley Hunt Club. Pairings and starting times are as follows:

11:30 Nick Vance vs. Walter Montross
a.m. John Tutich vs. Frank Shirk
1 p.m. Dick Gieselman vs. Gerry Gerard
Dave Fairbank vs. George Renault

PROGRAM FOR JUNE 12

Lunch — 11:30 a.m.
Golf — tee off noon-1:30 .m.
Cocktails — 6 p.m.
Dinner — 7 p.m.
Meeting — After dinner
Coats and ties required