

CONVERTING TO BENTGRASS FAIRWAYS AT ARBOR HILLS COUNTRY CLUB

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The following is a summary of the bentgrass conversion program used on the fourteenth fairway at Arbor Hills Country Club.

The soil on the fourteenth fairway is a very heavy clay. The turfgrass community prior to renovation consisted of four or five different turfgrass species. The combination of soil properties and variable turfgrass needs made management of 0.5" fairway turf difficult.

On August 29, 1988, Roundup was applied at one gallon per acre to kill all the plants in the fairway and eliminate competition for the bentgrass that will be overseeded into the fairway.

The next step was aerification with Ryan Greensaires to enhance the seed-soil contact necessary for good establishment. The cores were broken up and soil exposed by making three passes with a greensmower equipped with vertical mowing units.

Seeding was done on September 4, 1988 at a rate of 50 lbs of bentgrass seed per acre with a drop seeder.

Three weeks after seeding, September 26, 1988, the fairway was mowed with triplex greensmowers at 0.6". At this time algae was noticed in the low, poorly drained areas that remained moist during the heavy rains.

To inhibit *Poa annua* invasion into the bentgrass, overseeding Prograss was applied October 27, 1988 at two quarts per acre. The final Prograss treatment was applied December 5, 1988.

The cost of the program is estimated at \$870 per acre using the 50 lbs of bentgrass seed per acre rate.