

Spring Heat Wave Helps Bermudagrass Transition

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The heat wave experienced throughout much of California in March and April gave bermudagrass a good start this spring. Early green-up was observed at courses that did not overseed, and good bermudagrass transition is now evident at most overseeded courses. It is interesting to note the inverse relationship between overseeding quality last fall and bermudagrass transition this spring. High temperatures last September and October resulted in poor overseeding establishment, but the good news is that there was less impact on bermudagrass recovery this spring. It is important for golfers and green committee members to keep this relationship in mind since there is rarely that "perfect year" when weather is conducive to perfect overseeding establishment and flawless bermudagrass recovery.

The high temperatures have caused a few minor problems on *Poa annua* putting greens. Heat stress was observed at some courses following core aeration and the unexpected increase in temperature. Superintendents also started salinity monitoring and deep watering programs earlier than normal as a result of the heat.

Kopec's 90° Rule – Many courses encourage golfers to obey the 90° rule when using carts to reduce traffic and wear damage to the turf. At our recent USGA Regional Conference in Phoenix, Dr. Dave Kopec from the University of Arizona reminded superintendents that golfers interpret this rule differently. Kopec's version of the 90° Rule states "as temperatures rise above 90°, golfers will drive their cart directly to the ball and anywhere else they want regardless of the cart policy."

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Pat Finlen, CGCS
Olympic Club

With summer already here, most of us are busy tending to what makes our job so challenging. Whether it is the heat of the summer, the demands of your golfers or the lack of adequate resources, summer can be extremely tough on the golf course and the superintendent. Take the time to thank your staff for the work they do. Summer can be just as stressful for them as it is for you. For those that are facing tough times, irregardless of the seasons, the association has a wide array of members who are more than willing to share their talents and expertise to help you through those challenging times. If you know of someone needing a little extra help, please offer it to them. If you need help, don't hesitate to call upon a fellow member. The benefits of belonging to an association go far beyond the monthly meetings for education and camaraderie.

During May the State Association meeting was held in Valencia. While Northern California members sparsely attended it, it was a very good event with some excellent education and golf.

This past June we held our annual Superintendent/Pro meeting at Silver Creek Valley CC. Congratulations to host superintendent Nick Checklenis and the entire staff for providing outstanding golf course conditions and for a wonderful setting for our meeting. Thank you to our sponsors: Wait Motor Supply, Turf Drains of America, Smith and Associates and BASF. The winner of the trip to Pinehurst sponsored by BASF was Dick Rudolph. He and one lucky guest have an outstanding trip ahead of them.

Coming up in July is our annual Assistant's Tournament at Laguna Seca in Monterey. This relatively new event for the association has been very successful in its infancy. It is a great way to thank the assistants for the fine work they do and to give them a chance to attend an educational session and play golf.

In August, Santa Rosa Golf and Country Club and Gill Stiles will be hosting our annual Scholarship and Research Tournament. This event is our chance to raise money for worthy scholarships and for the valuable research that the association supports. Research projects that the association is supporting this year include a study on gray leaf spot and a continuation of the nematode research. Both research projects have a profound impact upon many of our members and their respective golf courses.

Once again this fall, Merritt College will be offering their Professional Turf and Landscape Program. This program is supported by many Industry Partners and offers an opportunity for your staff to obtain some technical skills. For more information visit their website at www.peralta.cc.ca.us