

TALKING HEADS

FEATURE

| | WHAT IS YOUR PHILOSOPHY ON OVERSEEDING? | AT WHAT TIMES OF YEAR AND WHAT FREQUENCY DO YOU TEND TO SEED? |
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|  <p>Name: Robert Bayliss Club: Weymouth GC, South West Position: Head Greenkeeper</p> | <p>I have always believed overseeding to be worthwhile. If weed seeds can germinate and establish even in a tight sward then it's fair to assume that desirable seed will do well also. Close examination of the turf a couple of weeks after overseeding will show that germination is invariably successful. The problem is how many of the seedlings become established and make it to maturity, especially on golf courses that are subject to so much wear these days. As your readers are well aware that depends on a number of factors but as a general rule the size of green and number of available hole positions play a big part. The more you are able to spread the wear the better the success rate.</p> | <p>We generally overseed in the autumn as part of the end of summer renovations. A light scattering of seed mixed in with the top dressing aids germination. Some heavily worn areas may require further attention if we have a particularly bad year.</p> |
|  <p>Name: Andrew Fillery Club: Alesund GC, Norway Position: Course Manager</p> | <p>I agree whole-heartedly with overseeding and try to seed two or three times a year.</p> | <p>I seed in early May and mid-July depending on the weather. Dormant overseeding takes place in September/early October.</p> |
|  <p>Name: Charles Edgar Club: Castlerock GC, Northern Ireland Position: Course Manager</p> | <p>Overseeding is an important part in any greens maintenance programme. A lot of research and testing has been carried out to provide finer, disease tolerant grass species which can be introduced into golf greens. The more we can reduce the dependency on chemicals and fertilisers to produce fine putting surfaces, the better. If we can successfully introduce new species through overseeding into our sward, we are on the right track.</p> | <p>I tend to favour September - the earlier the better. It gives the new seedlings a better chance to establish before Autumn. The seasons seem to be mixed up so who knows what October or November might bring. Frequency would depend on weather conditions throughout the growing season - being a links course, a very dry summer coupled with an increase in play, the greens can be in need of rejuvenating. Generally I would hollow-tine and seed every two years with direct seeding in between.</p> |
|  <p>Name: Stuart Hogg Club: St Annes Old Links, North Position: Course Manager</p> | <p>I overseed to enhance the quality of the sward composition.</p> | <p>Usually I overseed in August/September time, depending on the weather and tournaments.</p> |
|  <p>Name: Stuart Greenwood Club: North Berwick, Scotland Position: Course Superintendent</p> | <p>Regular overseeding is important to keep improving grass quality which, in the long term, will lead to better and more consistent surfaces.</p> | <p>I tend to overseed from early August through to late September. I find I have more success as the ground temperature and moisture levels are better for germination.</p> |
|  <p>Name: Simon Forshaw Club: Jack's Point, New Zealand Position: Course Manager</p> | <p>We overseed in order to dense up our plant cover, help aid the fight against poa invasion and other weeds (as we are a newly seeded course). It also helps in our management in high traffic areas, while hopefully speeding up the recovery.</p> | <p>Our main aim this coming growing season, will be to do maybe two overseeding operations. We will do our first overseeding once our soil temperatures reach double digits, which for us is around mid-October. We have found in the past when we were in the construction/sow, that it was better to hold off and wait to gain a far better result. And again, overseed in autumn depending on our traffic damage. We have found in our case that our browntops have a far better strike rate in autumn than spring, if it is in non-irrigated areas.</p> |
|  <p>Name: Sean McDade Club: Sandwell Park, Midlands Position: Dep Head Greenkeeper</p> | <p>The necessity to over-seed falls into two factors, 1. Renovation, or, 2. Change of species. The first should be considered as an indicator that there is an underlying problem. That said, over-seeding is very useful in renovation of scarring from disease, what ever the time of year or causing pathogen. Secondly, the change to Agrostis in Poa dominant swards is nigh-on impossible, treat Poa well and it will serve you admirably. However, with multi-cultured swards over-seeding can prove very fruitful in preventing the invasion of Poa annua.</p> | <p>Such is now, due to climate change, dependant upon the prevailing conditions. I have sown seed in January with great success, and yet in May have failed! I am of the philosophy that even if conditions are not perfect, that the seed will remain within the sward and germinate when good and ready.</p> |

OVERSEEDING

| WHAT SEED MIX DO YOU USE? | DO YOU USE ANY TRICKS IN THE PROCESS OF OVERSEEDING TO MAXMISE SUCCESS? | WHAT DO YOU DO IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND WEEKS TO ASSIST SUCCESS? |
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| <p>Mainly bent for greens in the past which over the years has shown a slow improvement in the make up of the sward.</p> | <p>Bulking the seed up with seaweed helps to give a nice even spread immediately prior to top dressing.</p> | <p>Apart from ordering in supplies in good time not much really. I think the after care once the seed has germinated is the crucial factor.</p> |
| <p>I use Pan A4.</p> | <p>No tricks, I just use an overseeder.</p> | <p>I use some sustain – 464 and 400.</p> |
| <p>80 % Fescue 20% Bent. I tend to work on the top five varieties from the STRI seed guide.</p> | <p>Not really. I try to be as accurate as possible with distribution, get as much seed as possible into hollow-tine hole through brushing in various directions. I would put on a light application of lawnseed approximately one week after so there is nutrient available for the new seedlings when germinating - and then of course Pray!</p> | <p>Raise height of cut to 6mm, after top dressing I would use vibrating rollers to ensure good contact between seed and top dressing. Ensure that mower reels are kept sharp to lessen any damage to new leaf shoots.</p> |
| <p>I use pure fescue mixes.</p> | <p>I solid tine with 8mm tines down to 25mm, then use the cyclone spreader to apply the seed. It is then dragged in two ways then finally I apply a topdressing to hold the seed within the holes.</p> | <p>Pray for favourable weather conditions! Seriously, we tend to roll for a few days then apply a liquid seaweed once germination has been seen.</p> |
| <p>I use only fescue mix on all playing surfaces, but also some dwarf rye on heavy traffic areas.</p> | <p>Trying to get seed into existing sward is important - Use of sarel rollers and giving as many passes as possible as well as a light top dressing afterwards.</p> | <p>I try to lift the height of cut a little to give the seed a good chance of germination, and rolling a bit more instead of cutting causes less disturbance.</p> |
| <p>We use 50 % creeping red fescue and 50% chewing fescue on our fairways, and New Zealand brown tops on our greens/tees and roughs. In roughs we are slowly increasing our fescues with the brown tops over time. In our case we find if we don't get any bare areas filled in we find poa invading very fast.</p> | <p>Not really, just work towards preparing seeding conditions if required, monitor soil temperatures and moisture levels, and maybe a little help from some goodies.</p> | <p>Ensure worked areas are protected, monitored and traffic is kept to a minimum. Use a light started fertiliser depending on the situation, adjust cutting heights accordingly, make an effort to try not to have any sharp turns from wheels on maintenance equipment and golf carts. Daily tyre pressure checks. Moving hole cups around for spreading the wear. Tees: keeping divots/traffic confined to one area. Fairways: monitor cutting equipment. Our situation is different, we are a newly developed course that will be going into the wait and see period.</p> |
| <p>On greens: Agrostis ssp. The germination rate I have found to be superb if treated well. On other areas a general mix of Agrostis, Festuca, and P. pratensis works well, but traffic must be kept off during establishment.</p> | <p>There are only 3 tricks: 1. Prepare the ground well by aeration/slitting/spiking. If the seed is not in contact with the soil then put it in the bin. 2. Consolidate the surface with a top-dressing/ root zone.</p> | <p>Apply a light dressing of 8/8/8 after germination and mow with a sharp rotary mower for the first few weeks, such mowing prevents plucking-out of seedlings. On greens/scars, lightly dress such to protect the emerging seedlings. Such will also help to re-tire any discrepancies in the putting surface.</p> |