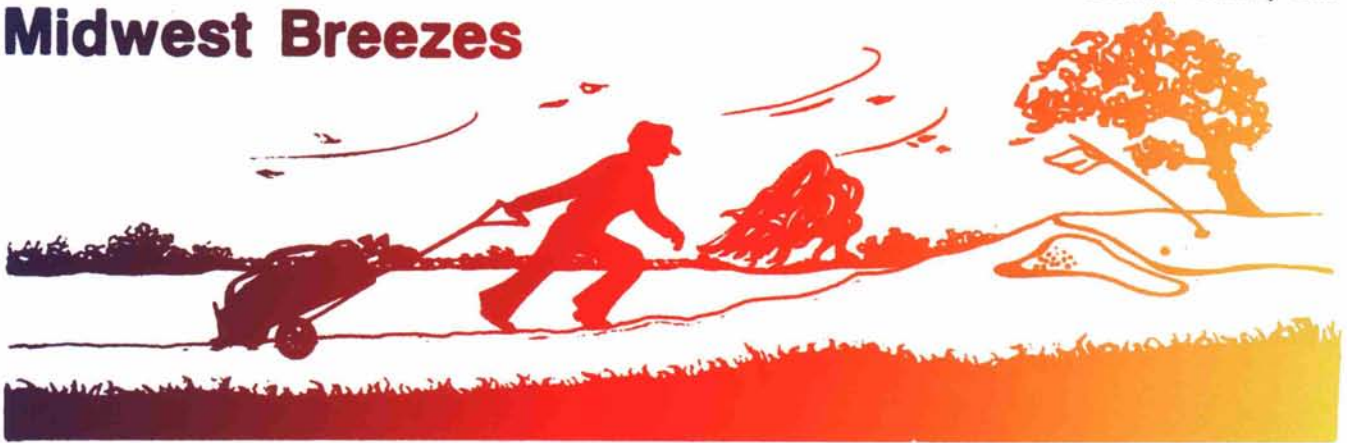


# Midwest Breezes



## Adventures in Recycling: Bob Lively Builds New Green at Flossmoor Using Soil and Materials From Its Predecessor

The members of Flossmoor Country Club have asked Bob to keep the greens very firm and fast. At the speed which Bob is running, the golf course is very challenging, but the 18th green became almost unplayable. Out of 4,000 square feet of putting surface, only 500 square feet of cupable area remained on the green.

Dave Esler was brought in to design a new green to 3.25% slope—the original green was designed with a 6.5% slope from top to bottom. The members instructed Bob to build a new green that would play in every way exactly like every other green on the golf course. So Bob put together a plan to build the new green with the turf and soil materials from the old green.

On September 21, 2003, a crew lifted the grass exactly as it lay on the green and laid it on the clubhouse lawn directly behind the remodeling site. Contractor Mike Reirdon then harvested the growing medium of the green with a rubber-track bobcat. The first layer consisted of 4.5 inches of sand topdressing accumulations. This layer was stockpiled adjacent to the remodeling site. The next layer consisted of 8 inches of rich topsoil. This was also stockpiled nearby. The clay shell was now all that remained of the old green.

To soften the contours, material was brought in to raise the lower half of the green. This required 38 six-wheelers of fill. As the fill material was brought in and dumped, the bobcat was on hand to spread and compact the fill in 2-inch lifts. Bob felt that this was the most important phase of the project, because he did not want the green to settle in the future.

Dave Esler staked out the final subgrade, and Mike Reirdon performed shaping. Now it was time to respread the topsoil and compact it with the bobcat. The sand was then respread for the final layer. Finally, the crew put back the original sod from the green exactly as it originally lay.

The entire green surface was finished in four-and-a-half days. Bob then concentrated on completing the surrounds with embankment grading and bunkering.

Bob promised that he would have the green opened by June 1, 2004, but only if he could get back down to his standard 0.100" cutting height. With a lot of sand topdressing and rolling, Bob was able to open the green to play on April 28, 2004, 32 days ahead of schedule.

Paul Vermeulen encouraged Dave to install drain tile

*(continued on page 26)*



*(L to R) Applying fertilizer and fungicide to existing green prior to removal of sod; removing sod from green; the green sod laid down just as it came off the green directly behind green complex on the clubhouse lawn; excavator removing 4" topdressing layer.*



*(L to R) Excavator removing 8" topsoil layer; excavator shaping green with fill brought in to reduce slope of green; hauling old topsoil mix back into green after fill had been added to reduce slope; hauling in old topdressing mix to go on top of old topsoil mix.*





(L to R) Superintendent Bob Lively and architect Dave Esler checking grade elevations; final grading and compaction with excavator and machine; Flossmoor grounds crew doing final raking before sod work; sod being put down exactly the way it came off.



(L to R) First rolling after laying sod; second rolling one week later; first mowing 10 days after sodding; TDI installing drain lines in spring 2004.

to the green. At first Bob felt that 3.25% surface drainage would handle all of his drainage concerns, but he did not want to take the risk of the entire project failing on this one issue, so he elected to install tile, but he waited until after the green was grown in. Bob then contracted TDI to install 2-inch tile on 9-foot spacing. But Bob modified the mix that went back into the tile trench to a material that was higher in organic matter than the material that is recommended by TDI. Bob keeps his green very dry and he was concerned that the trench backfill material would dry down faster than the rest of the surface. So Bob developed a 50/40/10 blend to go back in to the trenches. This has worked out very well; the trenches are only visible in the winter when the green is dormant.

The members of Flossmoor love the new 18th green, and Bob is very happy with how Dave Esler's design matches up so nicely with the rest of the greens. If you didn't know it, you would never be able to guess which green on the golf course was remodeled.

As a sidebar, Bob is a firm believer in Vertidrain his greens the first Monday of every month in the growing season with ¼-inch needle tines. The 18th green at Flossmoor had been Vertidrain several times before remodeling, and when the topsoil was being striped from the old green, the Vertidrain channels were evident everywhere; they were still open at all levels, and packed with white roots. Bob started this procedure when he was at McHenry Country Club and he has not core-aerated greens for more than 10 years now.

—Bradley Anderson, Midlane Country Club

### Trailblazing with Velocity: Firsthand Experiences with New Postemergence Herbicide

By now, many superintendents have heard about Velocity, a new postemergence herbicide on the market. Velocity has been available for use in Michigan since 2003 and is available for use in Illinois in 2005. It is labeled for use on creeping bentgrass and perennial ryegrass tees and fairways to control *Poa annua*, *Poa trivialis* and other broadleaf weeds.

It is not surprising that a lot of interest has been generated among superintendents by Velocity's potential to control or eliminate *Poa annua*. As with most new chemicals, a lot of hope exists for the product, but with little experience there are also many questions to be answered. For that reason, "Midwest Breezes" contacted several superintendents who do have experience using Velocity. Tim Asselin and Doug Kendzioriski are superintendents in Michigan who have applied the product during the past two years that it has been available in their state. Scott Werner is a superintendent from Illinois who has used Velocity on his course in conjunction with some of Bruce Branham's research.

Table 1 contains some general information regarding the areas treated at each course, as well as details about these superintendents' Velocity applications. Here is a summary of each superintendent's thoughts and observations.

#### Tim Asselin, Shepherd's Hollow, Clarkston, Michigan

Tim applied Velocity to two quarter-acre plots on his 13th and 16th fairways and was happy with the results. Beginning in mid-June, he made three applications at the 20 grams a.i./acre rate at 14-day intervals. After the final application, all of the *Poa annua* had been killed and the *Poa trivialis* was extremely weak. Tim believes the *Poa trivialis* was never killed because the 14-day interval between applications was too long.

Tim made several other observations throughout the Velocity treatments. First, he noticed some bentgrass discoloration that he characterized as Granny Smith apple green. Furthermore, he observed a greater discoloration with the first application than with subsequent applications. Second, there was a reduced but acceptable level of bentgrass vigor. Though, as the *Poa annua* faded, Tim decided to topdress the area with a soil-and-seed mixture. Finally, significant brownish-gray discoloration of Kentucky bluegrass occurred in areas where the applicator had overlapped into the rough.