

Midwest Breezes



Sunset Ridge Country Club, Greg Rounds

The greens at Sunset Ridge Country Club were fumigated and seeded to strait A4 in mid August of 2004. Superintendent, Greg Rounds reports that in the first eight weeks of growth, the A4 roots were 5.25 inches deep. When the course re-opened for play the following spring, the root system on the two newly constructed USGA greens was so dense that it was very difficult to even remove a hexagonal plug from the greens.

The A4 variety continues to impress Greg as his greens mature: now in their second full season, the native push up greens at Sunset Ridge required no irrigation from sprinklers this summer – even during the stretch of 90° temperatures experienced in late July. Except for the occasional cycle of water to wash in sand or wetting agents into the native push-up greens, no watering was required for the A4. With Greg's previous work experience involving Poa/Bent putting surfaces,

he has had to completely rethink his concept of irrigation with this grass. The A4 greens can become as hard as a rock, with thoroughly dried out soils beneath, and yet the A4 remains turgid and healthy.

We have heard a lot about the problems of managing the matt below the surface of A4. Greg's program for addressing this issue is to spike and topdress every Monday at approximately twice the amount of sand that is put down by a Scotts spreader. The Waupaca fines free, kiln dried sand is dragged in with a Greens Groomer brush in two directions. This brush is particularly aggressive, hence, Greg has not seen the need to verticut, because the weekly brushing is keeping the canopy open and upright.

Brad Anderson, CGCS

Intricate bunkering surrounding a green at Sunset Ridge Country Club.





Assistant Superintendent Blake Meentemeyer stimps one of the newly planted A4 greens at Sunset Ridge.



Above: A calm morning overlooking a green at Sunset Ridge.

Below: An A4 bentgrass green maturing after two years of life.

