

## SUPER –N– SITE

Josh Therrien, St. Charles Country Club

# Renovation of Medinah's Course Number Three

*Late in the summer, Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS, and his staff took major steps in the renovation of Medinah's Course Number Three. The renovation has included the re-seeding of fairways, reconstruction of greens, and a complete overhaul of the fifteenth hole. Prior to this leg of the construction, liners had been installed and new sand was put into all of the bunkers. Additionally, the practice facility endured many upgrades, including a brand new short game area. Many of the target greens at the newly established practice area were seeded with a variety of bentgrass cultivars. Curtis used these to evaluate the best choice for use in the renovation of Course Number Three. Construction of the practice facility began in August of 2009 and was completed in November.*

At the completion of the Course Number Three project, all eighteen greens plus a practice green will meet USGA Specs. Six of those greens had already been constructed to USGA Specs, so they were sterilized with Methyl Bromide, slightly re-graded, with a few swales put in according to natural slope, then seeded. The subsurface of the remainder of the greens was revamped to meet USGA specs. Curtis decided to seed with a blend of Seed Research of Oregon's (SR) 007 at (70%), and SR 1119 (30%). The seed went down at 1.75 pounds per

1,000 square feet. A chicken-based compost was added in order to give the seed the right amount of fuel to germinate and establish in the sand. Irrigation heads had to be adjusted to accommodate a slight resizing of the greens. The contours of the green surrounds remained the same with exception of the fifteenth hole.

Renovation of the fairways began on August 17, 2009. By September 17, all were seeded and had been cut for the

*(continued on page 15)*



water has driven the growth of wetting agent use, growth regulators and soil and water treatment apparatus. Irrigation technology has its own place on this list.

### 6. Hard and Fast Conditions

Players are more sophisticated and they have high expectations. Light frequent topdressing, rolling greens being commonplace (the pendulum really swung on that one), hand watering, and other cultural practices aimed at supplying the demand for hard and fast conditions (several people mentioned that using kiln dried sand for topdressing greens pays for itself, because the sand brushes in so well, you can do a light topdressing between groups of golfers, without them even noticing).

### 5. "Green" Initiatives

Hybrid and electric equipment is becoming more commonplace. The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System has been around for a while. It and other ecological / environmental programs seem to have more support from golfers (as long as they are "affordable"). The notion that golf courses are "artificial" is becoming discredited. The golf course superintendent is perceived as a knowledgeable environmental manager.

### 4. "New" bentgrass cultivars for putting greens

A number of cultivars that have been introduced recently were mentioned for drought and disease resistance and their ability to tolerate low mowing heights.

### 3. Sophisticated Irrigation Technology

This is a very broad category including moisture sensors, variable frequency drive pumps, separate bunker irrigation

systems, drip irrigation, radio control, and nutrient and soil amendment injectors. This probably deserves its own top ten list – somebody else can do that.

### 2. Growth Regulators

Direct quote from a respondent – "What was kind of a Frankenstein experiment has become a regular part of mine and I think a large population of golf course maintenance programs."

And the number one biggest change affecting golf course maintenance since 1999 is...

### 1. Spike-less Golf Shoes.

A business miracle – the "customers" adapted voluntarily (pretty much) to suit the "provider" rather than the other way around.

A good thing to remember the next time you're crabbing about unrepaired ball marks or footprints in the bunkers.

-OC

*(continued from page 5)*

first time. The process began by spraying an application of Glyphosate on the fairways. Next, they were scalped two or three times, followed by verticutting in two directions. Basamid was then applied at ten pounds per 1,000 square feet and watered in heavily for three consecutive days. Curtis decided to seed greens at this time, so that any overlap from irrigation would hit both areas at the same time. After the Basamid had enough dry time, the fairways were verticut once more, blown clean, and ready for seed. The seed selected was SR 007 (60%), SR 1119 (30%), and SR 7150 (10%). The seed was blended together and applied at two pounds per 1,000 square feet. A chicken-based compost from Pearl Valley was added to the seed at 10 pounds per 1,000 square feet. Finally, the fairways were rolled for good seed to soil contact. Because of ideal weather conditions, establishment went well, and the fairways received their first mowing fourteen days after dropping seed. An additional step on approaches was to cultivate sand into the soil and add Aero San Mats (Futera) to keep seed in tacked on slopes when adding additional water to greens.

On the fifteenth hole, the length was reduced to create an enjoyable short par four. The hole now measures 345 yards from the back tees. Additionally, where frequent flooding once occurred on this hole, mounds were built and two new ponds were installed. Behind the tee box, where the old tees once were, facilities will be built to accommodate the 2012 Ryder Cup.

At the same time that all of this renovation was happening, the maintenance facility was torn down. Construction on a new one will begin soon. For the time being, Curtis and his staff have made great use of tents, the parking lot, and other buildings on the property for equipment storage and offices. The staff has been so busy, not only with renovation, but also with maintaining two other courses for daily play that they don't seem to mind not having a maintenance shop. Well, I'm sure they do mind, but it certainly hasn't stopped them from getting the work done. Great job to all, and the hard work will not go unnoticed. -OC



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