

The Gator Growls

By DAN L. HALL JR.
Imperial Golf Club



Port Charlotte C.C., Port Charlotte, FL **Bob Sanderson, C.G.C.S., Superintendent** **Bob Yates, Assistant**

November 16, 1981:

Tifgreen greens — Triplex mowed at 3/16" daily.

Seed — 60% CBS - 40% Pennfine Koban treated at 20 lb./MSF.

Method — Pre-seeding mechanics are completed at least 60 days prior to overseeding due to extremely heavy play. Bob feels he needs some Bermuda cushion to enable his rye to survive more than 350 players per day on relatively small putting surfaces. Broad spectrum plus pythium fungicides are applied three to four days prior to seeding.

Seeds are applied with cyclone spreaders and top dressed with pure medium sand and matted in once by regular dragmat. Greens are syringed at 6 a.m. - Noon - 7 p.m. daily and not mowed until the seventh day. Height is raised to 5/16" for two weeks and lowered to 1/4" until Jan. 1, then down to 3/16" for the season.

No specific pythium controls except treated seed are used at seeding but weekly applications of broad spectrum fungicides plus 3 ozs. of Aqua-Gro are applied using Daconil 2787-Fore-Thiuram 75 alternately applied.

A custom fertilize mix, 8-1-7, is applied by-weekly to put down 2 lbs. N₂ per month. Once monthly, chelated iron is mixed with a fungicide application at 4 oz. FE/MSF. The custom mix is also high in minors and trace elements.

Bob says the addition to his seeding of the CBS has given him a better surface with much more durability than the Pennfine alone used in the past; there has also been less fungi problems, but this could have been due to weather conditions this year. He plans to continue this program next year as his putting surfaces have been more consistent than past years under his heavy rate of play.

The rye is scheduled for removal about March 15 by greens-airing and heavy verti-cutting plus topdressing; mixing the medium sand with cores and then matting in well. Water will be reduced accordingly and regular verti-thinning on a weekly basis begun. This program has been highly successful in the past on Pennfine, and Bob is anxious to see if the same results hold true for the CBS addition.

Cypress Lake C. C. - Ft. Meyers, FL **David Moote, Superintendent** **Will Gordon, Assistant**

November 16, 1981:

Tifgreen greens mowed with triplex at 1/4" daily.

Method — Usual pre-seeding procedures were used prior to seeding. The green height was raised to 5/16" the week preceding and double verti-thinned and mowed at time of seeding. The seed was put down with cyclones and top-dressed with a 70/30 mix matted in together twice over with a regular steel mat.

The greens were fertilized with 2# N₂ from fine IBDU and syringing done three times daily at 5 a.m. - Noon - 5 p.m. for three weeks. The greens were cut daily at 5/16" during this period with walking Series V mowers. The greens were fertilized with 17-1-10 and fertigation 11-0-6 to apply 2½ N₂ per month, bi-weekly.

Fungicide applications are made bi-weekly using broad spectrum fungicides and no specific Pythium controls have been used to date. After 30 days, about Dec. 15, the mowers were lowered to 1/4" and on Jan. 25 to 3/16".

Due to proposed green re-building the Bent mixture will be cultivated as long as possible with the work hopefully underway by May 15.

Triplex verti-thinning will begin April 1 to maintain a desirable putting surface and David plans to reduce the usual cutting height as the Bermuda becomes the dominant greens turf.

Imperial Golf Course - East Course - Naples, FL **Dan L. Hall Jr., Superintendent** **Mark Black, Assistant**

December 2 & 3 - December 28:

Tifdwarf greens - Triplex mowed daily at 5/32".

Seed — Sabre Variety - Poa Trivialis - 5 lbs / MSF - 2 split seedings.

Method — Due to severe rootrot problem, Rhiz Solani, these greens were under frequent cultivation and were being grown in as if newly sprigged. The last major aeration

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was Nov. 9th consisting of plug removal and heavy top-dressing with 3/4 yd/MSF of a medium coarse sand matted in until the 5/8" holes were filled. Bi-weekly alternating applications of Fungicides from Chipco-Terrizole and a mixture of Daconil and Dithane had been applied since Sept. 1.

On Nov. 30 & Dec. 1, the greens were verti-thinned in two directions, matted with a steel mat and mowed at 5/32" the day of topdressing with a 90/10 mix which was then matted in with a carpeted mat. After matting all greens they were fungicided with Terrizole at 6 oz. and 8 oz. wetting agent/MSF.

Seeds were applied with a Gandy drop spreader and matted into the dressing with a carpeted mat. Syringing was begun that PM with 2 or 3 heads of the 4 or 5 around each green for 1 RPM of each sprinkler. This was done daily at 6 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. No other greens irrigation was done. Greens were not mowed until Dec. 6 then at 1/4" with no baskets. We began to remove Sabre clippings on Dec. 8 and syringing was eliminated. The East 18 was closed from Nov. 30 until Dec. 10. Mowing height was lowered to 7/32" on Dec. 10.

Fungicides, both broad spectrum and Pythium controls were sprayed bi-weekly alternating the materials used. Wetting agent and liquid minor elements were added at each spraying to apply 4 oz. of each/MSF. This program continues.

At the last cultivation, 2³/₄ lbs N₂ from fine IBDU was applied and no plant food was added until Dec. 28 when Milorganite at 3/4# N₂/MSF was applied with the second seeding using cyclone spreaders after lowering mowers to 3/16". The seed and Milorganite were twice matted in with a carpeted drag and greens were cut two days without baskets. Pax - Ex 17-1-10 at 1¹/₂# N₂/MSF was applied on Jan. 4 and 3/4 lb N₂ from Milorganite on Jan. 28. We anticipate lowering the mowers to 5/32" on Feb. 15 and greens have been double-mowed each Mon. and Tues. since Jan. 8.

We plan on reducing the Sabre by weekly verti-thinning with triplexes about March 1. The results this year indicated we must increase the Sabre to about 8 lbs/MSF this next season. Heavy play and unusually warm weather has caused the Tifdwarf to thin our Sabre in cupping areas on the smaller greens, especially so since Jan. 15. I feel the heavier rate will prevent this happening again. Since we only need the insurance for 8-10 weeks each year our opinion is the added Sabre will give us the same results, rather than adding the more costly Bents to the mix.

This has been an excellent winter on the West Coast to have skipped overseeding, but not being clairvoyant, it was a good gamble when you have Tifdwarf and/or extremely heavy play.

Quail Creek C. C. - Naples, FL
Lloyd McKenzie, Superintendent
Bob Shevlin, Assistant

Nov. 12 & 13 1981, Greens; Nov. 16, 1981, Tees.
Tifgreen - Walker mowed daily at 3/16"

Seed - Greens - 2# Penncross - 4# Sabre/MSF
Tees - 20# Derby-Caravelle mixed

Method - Normal pre-seeding mechanicals were done. Greens and tees were double verti-thinned and mowed one week prior to seeding and repeated the day of seeding. Seed was put down with cyclones from two directions with each variety, and matted with a carpeted drag. Syringed for two days for five minutes per head four times daily. Topdressing was applied lightly using a 80/20 mix not matted in two days after seeding. Irrigation continues on Dec. 5.

Fungicide was applied using Subdue at recommended rates two days prior to seeding. Both Pythium preventatives and broad spectrum preventatives were applied weekly and alternated in their applications.

A starter fertilizer was applied the week prior to seeding. Applied 1# N₂ from Scotts 18-24-6. Alternate applications are made with 29-3-3 and 22-0-16 to apply 1# N₂ one month. Minor elements have been added to all fungicide applications along with wetting agents at 1¹/₂ oz./MSF.

Irrigation cycles since germination have depended on weather varying from 5-10 minutes per day mostly in early evenings.

Greens were not cut for five days then at 5/16" for 16 days, then to 1/4" for four days, then to 5/32" to the present.

Approximately April 15, we plan to reduce irrigation, verti-thin, reduce feeding. Then coring at 1/2" on about May 1 with heavy verti-cutting to break plugs for mixing with a sand topdressing to facilitate the complete transition.

Lloyd plans to increase the Sabre rate from 4# to 6#/MSF to establish the turf a little more quickly, plus he feels the Bent is considerably slower in giving a putting surface early in the season.

Pelican Bay - Naples, FL
Roger Whitford, C.G.C.S., Superintendent
Bob Bittner, Assistant

November 16, 1981:

Tifdwarf greens - Mowed with walkers at 3/16" daily.

Seed - Penncross Bent at 4# plus Sabre at 7#/MSF

Method - All pre-seeding mechanics were completed prior to seed time.

Kerb is applied to the slopes and collars to prevent any seed germination, and only the putting surface is seeded. Fungicides for broad spectrum and Pythium were applied the preceding week and 10 days prior an 0-20-10 at 6#/MSF was applied.

Greens were verti-thinned two directions and mowed. Seed was applied for three laps with drop spreader around the surface perimeter and with cyclone spreaders inside the laps. The greens were then topdressed with a 70/30 mix and matted twice with a carpeted mat.

The greens were syringed by hand twice daily at 10:00 a.m.

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and 1 p.m. for four weeks plus one syringe cycle per night at 1/10" water/acre.

The mowers were raised to 1/4" and cut daily, then lowered to 3/16" after the third week.

Due to traffic and the warm weather a second seeding at one half the earlier rates was applied to thin areas Dec. 28 and carpet matted to achieve a uniform surface.

Plant foods have been applied along with fertigation to maintain a ratio of 2 1/4# N₂ and 1# K₂ per month since seeding.

Fungicide prevention is applied bi-weekly or oftener if conditions warrant.

Tees were seeded with a mix of 70% Annual and 30% Perennial ryes.

No special preparations made for tees except starter fertilizer Koban treated Rye seed was used.

Roger expects to begin removal of the over-seeding approximately April 15 by restricting water and triplex verti-thinning plus an application of soluble N₂.

Pelican's greens since its opening have had excellent winter overseeding using the Penncross and Sabre mix and Roger's members have been extremely happy with this program; Pelican will stay with this formula for 82-83.

Hole-In-The-Wall - Naples, FL
Lou Edwards, Superintendent
Ron Watson, Assistant

November 30 and December 1, 1981:

Tifgreen — Mowed with walkers at 3/16" daily.

Seed — Medalist VII - Koban Treated

Application — One seeding at 25#/MSF

Method — Greens sprayed with Pythium controls one week prior to seeding. Verti-thinned with triplex two directions. Spiked in four directions and mowed at 3/16". Seed applied with cyclone type spreader and two laps inside green with 36" drop spreader and matted with carpeted drag.

Topdressed with 80/20 soil mix at 1 1/2 cu. yds. per green - avg. at 5000 sq. ft. each.

Greens syringed 5 mins. each cycle at 6 a.m. - 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. for 10 days. Greens were not mowed during this period.

First mowing on tenth day at 5/16" maintained at this height until Jan. 5 - 1/4" and 7/32" on Jan. 30. Will be cut at 3/16" until end of season. From approximately Feb. 15 the cut will be lowered to 5/32".

Broad Spectrum fungicides are applied every 10 days or oftener if weather indicates.

Fertilizer program is 2# N₂ from Milorganite per month plus

fertigation from 11-0-5. Greens were fertilized at seeding time with 2# N₂ from Milorganite.

Tees were done same as greens except 10 lbs. of Medalist VII was used.

Lou plans to reduce rye stand on or about April 15 by verti-thinning and water reduction.

Completely satisfied with results and is happy with Medalist VII after six years of use.

Bears Paw C. C. - Naples, FL
Tolby Strahan, Superintendent
Wayne Stewart, Assistant

November 23, 1981:

Tifdwarf — Mowed with walkers at 1/8" daily.

Seed — Penncross Bent

Application — 3 1/2#/MSF on seeding date

3 lbs/MSF added Jan. 18, 1982

Method — Usual pre-seeding practices followed.

Two fungicide applications made the week prior, one a broad spectrum and the other for Pythium control.

Greens were verti-thinned with triplex and mowed at 1/8" ahead of seeding. Seed was matted in with carpeted drag from two directions. Two # N₂ was applied from Nitrogen Plus and no top soil application made. A 36" drop spreader is used for seeding.

Syringes of five minutes each four times daily for nine days. Mowers raised to 3/16" and cut daily for 21 days then lowered to 1/8".

Fungicide applications are made weekly using Thiuram 75 at 4 oz./MSF. Sod webworms were treated twice with Diazinon AG 500 once and Dursban 2E once.

Fertilizers used amounted to 2# N₂ and 1 1/2# K₂ per month since overseeding and will continue until about April 1 when Bent will be gradually removed by reducing water and plant foods with bi-weekly verti-thinning using triplex units.

Excellent results were obtained but the unseasonably warm weather has encouraged the Tifdwarf and necessitated the extra seed in January. Greens now about 60% Bent and 40% Tifdwarf and putting quality is excellent. Tolby plans on using the same next year but applying 4-5# Penncross the first seeding and just touching up the thin areas as necessary.

In summary, it becomes apparent there are as many ways to seed and maintain the resulting turf as there are superintendents. The pre-seeding mechanics were about the only part of the process that was fairly standard. Heavy aerifying with 1/2-5/8 inch tines, thorough verti-cutting and mowing, heavy top-dressing and matting done at least 30 days or more prior to seeding was done by all questioned.

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An interesting factor was the use of walking mowers, especially on the newer courses. The triplexes have been relegated to tee and collar mowing plus verti-thinning. This is quite a bit different than a few years ago when the developers of new courses were the prime movers in the use of the Triplexes due to labor costs.

Significantly, the use of pre-emergence controls for Poa Annua is non-existent now where four to five years ago almost everyone used pre-emergence controls even though many materials were not recommended for putting surfaces.

The use of finer seed mixtures seems to be returning after the surge of use of the perennial rye varieties of a few years ago. The mystery is, why not more interest in the Sabre variety of Poa Trivialis?

Field tests results of Poa Trivialis for years at the Univ. of FL; Sea Island, Ga; Ponte Vedra, FL; and San Jose, C. C., Jacksonville, FL; as a one seed variety always was No. 1 in these ratings and in the top five in the two and three seed mixes, including the weed problems of European Poa Trivialis.

Correspondingly, seed companies and university tests in the South from Texas to the Carolinas still show Sabre alone as having the highest one variety stand and the mixes of Bents and Sabre in three of the top four spots, with the ryes and rye mixes in following order.

It is also interesting that most all questioned use basically the same methods for the transition from overseeding to Bermuda, with almost no variations except in the verti-cutting or verti-thinning portion of the program.

As stated earlier, this winter has been the best in many years for forsaking overseeding except where play is unusually heavy or Tifdwarf is the putting turf. Some with Tifgreen wished they hadn't seeded, but admitted sleeping a little more peacefully during our two cold spells. ■

Poa Annua Classic
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There are many conclusions that one could arrive at from reviewing the survey chart. Some of these conclusions that will aid in a good overseeding program are:

1. Book or purchase your seed as far in advance as possible to assure seed availability.
2. Try to get the best price on the seed that has the characteristics you are looking for.
3. Shop around for seed; perennial ryes are very similar in some respects but not necessarily price.
4. Overseeding early reduces the chance of cold weather damage to germinating seed.
5. Test your seed and make sure you are getting what you pay for and not introducing noxious weeds to your turf.
6. Plan overseeding dates in advance with your pro or club management for time that will *benefit your overseeding program!*

Overseeding in North Florida is a critical necessity for superintendents so that they can maintain good turf conditions for winter golf play. Hopefully, we have shared some knowledge and given some insight into overseeding by North Florida superintendents. ■