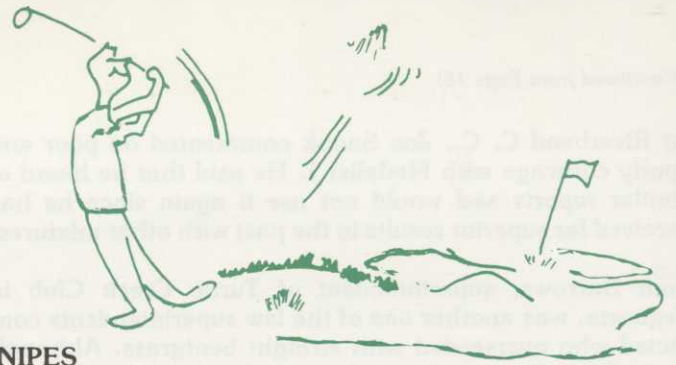


NORTH FLORIDA

DIVOTS

By EDDIE SNIPES
San Jose Country Club



Early October through November brings a common denominator to North Florida Superintendents. This is overseeding time, when greens and tees are made ready for winter conditions. One might say that this is the most critical time of the year for a superintendent and his crew.

In order to gain an accurate insight into overseeding in North Florida, a survey was compiled and sent to 23 superintendents throughout the North Florida Chapter area. Of the 23 surveys sent, there were 17 responses. Gentlemen, I thank you sincerely for your time and effort.

The information from the survey has been put into a chart. This will enable us to compare responses and draw some conclusions that promote good overseeding programs. Responses will be listed 1-17 and questions I-VII. Here is a list of the seven survey questions:

I. When do you usually purchase your seed for

overseeding?

- II. What type of seed did you purchase for your: Greens? Tees? Fairways?
- III. What were some reasons for buying the seed you did? (price, seed characteristic, color, putting ability, etc.)
- IV. On what dates do you generally overseed and why?
- V. Was your seed tested by the state and what were the results?
- VI. Do you use any special mechanical technique during overseeding?
- VII. Any comments about your 1981 overseeding program?

RESPONSE

	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.
1.	Early Summer	Perennial; Common Rye; None	Price; Seed Characteristics	Nov. 1st; 1-2 weeks before Invitational	No	No	Should overseed last of October
2.	June 15	Marvel green sabre; common; none	Test	Oct. 5; beat cold weather; post pre emergence	Yes; good	No	Overseeded early; helped program; very good this year
3.	June-July	Marvel green 3+1; Premier; none	Putting quality; promptness of delivery	Nov. 1-7; Tournament dates later October	No	Verticut two ways; topdress seed; do not mow for two days	Experienced washdown of seed from bad weather. Next year overseed last Oct.

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RESPONSE

	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.
4.	July-August	Creeping bent grass & sabre Perennial Rye; None	Putting quality; better fall transition	Oct. 10-15; quicker germination; use lower seed rate	Yes; 90% to 95% good	None	Good transition, wear tolerance below acceptable, 100 rounds a day
5.	120 days prior overseeding	CBS; Annual Rye; None	Price; recommendation	Nov. 2nd week	Yes; good	Pray a lot day overseed; go to church	Worst overseeding effort
6.	1st of Summer	Premier; Lucern; None	no real difference new perennial ryes	Middle Oct. Play too heavy afterwards	yes; found poa in Lucern	Verticut heavy; cut close; seed 3 ways; top dress heavy; drag a lot; water often	Greens & tees okay; rough heavier next year
7.	June-July	Marvel green supreme; annual rye; none	price; putting quality; color; availability	Nov. 1st; ground temp dropped significantly	Yes; 90% germ	No	None
8.	October	CBS, Common; None	Good combination coverage	Last Oct. 1st Nov. Good results	No	Seed 4 directions; drop on cyclone spreaders	None
9.	July	Marvel green; ---; ----	mowing ability	Last Oct; better germination	Yes; as label	No	None
10.	September	Marvel green supreme; 70/30 blend perennial-annual; none	Price; recommendations	Oct. 25th; good results	Yes; good	No	Very satisfactory
11.		Blend of Penn-fine, Yorktown & Manhattan; annual; none	Price; color; availability	Oct/Nov; 63 holes each course 15 days apart, before 1st frost	No	No	Drought and early cold hampered
12.	Spring	Premier/sabre; lucern; none	no real preference ryes; sabre green finer texture	Nov. 1st; fits tournament	No	Drag seed in turf close	Early bad weather, still successful
13.	June None	Marvel green 3+1; Lucern; hardiness	Price, color, general ahead of cold	Oct. 3rd week germinate weather	No	verticut light few days before overseeding	Didn't get overseed third week December, had to reseed some greens
14.	As soon as possible	Northrup medalist 6 brand annual/perennial mixture; None	Like previous results	Oct 15-Nov 15; Soil 60° or below	Yes 3% above guarantee	Not cut greens 4 days before seeding	Allowing greens to grow up before seeding, prevented washing away of seed & sand
15.	Jan.-Feb.	Premier sabre; Perennial; None	Supplier provides good seed at fair price	Oct. 11-18; Plan overseeding dates when no tournaments scheduled	Yes; good	None	First frost Nov. 14, glad went early
16.	October	Common rye; Perennial; None	Recommendation from distributor	Oct. 20-Nov. 20;	No	None	Germination excellent
17.	August 1	Marvel green; Perennial; none	Fine leaf texture	Nov. 1	No	None	None

(Continued from Page 35)

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. ■

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(Continued from Page 31)

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. ■