



South Florida Sunshine



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Inverrary Country Club

Many superintendents agree on some management procedures. Generally speaking they mow greens every day, fairways and tees three times a week, rough at least once a week and change cups (at least in season) daily. They do disagree about overseeding. The results of a survey of four south Florida superintendents are shown in the

accompanying table. The superintendents were Kerry Son, of Colony West Country Club, Les Brown of LaGorce Country Club, Phil Amman of Bonaventure Country Club and Bob O'Connell of Pompano Beach Country Club. Two of the courses are Tifgreen 328 and the other two Tifdwarf.

	COLONY WEST	LA GORCE	BONAVENTURE	POMPANO BEACH
Host Grass	Tifdwarf	Tifdwarf	328	328
Overseed	Medalist 7	Penncross Bentgrass Sabre Poa Trivialis	Pennfine	50% Pennfine 50% Citation
Pre-seeding Preparation	Verticut- Day Before Spike-week before	Light weekly Verticutting 4-way spiking on seeding day	Light Verticut 2 days before seeding seeding	Aerified Early Nov. Verticut - 2 way before seeding
Date Seeded	Last week Nov.	3rd Nov.	2nd Nov.	1st & 2nd week Dec.
Rate	32 lbs./1000	5 lbs. Penncross 5 lbs. Sabre Poa Trivialis	30 lbs./1000	40 lbs./1000
Method	Cyclone & Gandy (on cleanup passes)	Drop spreader	Drop spreader	Gandy
Pre-plant Fertilizer	None	None	6-8-8 week before	None
Topdress after seeding	9-with 9-without (no difference)	Yes-heavy	Yes	Yes
Watering Practices	Syringe 11 AM & 3 PM Short Cycle at Night	Hand watering 3-4 times daily	Twice daily AM & PM	Light Syringe every hour during daylight 3 cycles at night
Pre-plant Fungicide Applications	Daconil 2787 & Dithane M-45 before seeding	Subdue 1 week before seeding	Dithane M-45 week before seeding	Acti-Dione Thiram 2 weeks before
Days until Germination	5 Days	Sabre-7 Bent-10	5 Days	4 Days
How many days after germination do you mow?	14 Days	7 Days	2 Days	2 Days
Initial Mowing Height	5/8"	3/8"	5/16"	3/8"
Final Mowing Height at Plant Maturity	9/64	5/32	1/4	1/4
Will you overseed next year?	Yes	Yes-Bent only	Yes	Yes

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Areas Overseeded	Greens Par 3-Tees	Greens Par 3-Tees	Greens	Greens & Tees
Did Warm weather this year cause any seed loss?	Yes-75%	Yes-30%	Yes-10%	Yes-40%
When do Golfers play on greens after seeding?	Day after	Day after	Day after	7 Days after
Fertilization Rates	1½ lbs.N/1000	2 lbs.N/Month	1 lb.N/Month	1½ lbs.N/Month
Topdressing Program	One Time in January	Yes/Every 3 weeks	None	No-Play Prohibitive
Pythium Control after seeding	Yes	Yes	No	No

One can conclude from the survey that there are any number of successful methods of overseeding. The different approaches seem to be due to the individual preferences of the golf course superintendents. However, there are certain "musts" that will result in proper germination and minimum seed mortality. Watering after seeding is probably the most important. After seed is evenly distributed at whatever rate chosen, and whether or not topdressing is applied daily, frequent syringings are a must. If the seed is permitted to dry out the germination will be inconsistent and spotty. Every Superintendent felt this was one of the key ingredients in a successful overseeding program.

An area that is difficult to evaluate is golfer preference and inconvenience. Our goal should be overseeding programs that minimize golfer inconvenience and maximize golfer satisfaction. The majority of superintendents in South Florida overseed and undoubtedly it is felt by most golfers and turf managers that overseeding is a good insurance policy against the unpredictable cold snaps that occur during times of our heaviest play. Those who do not overseed

feel just as strongly about their point of view.

However, the overseeding process causes several weeks of golfer inconvenience due to daytime syringing, waiting for seed to germinate and mowing at higher than normal heights. It is during these times that we should strive to return our turf to its normal playing condition without sacrificing the results of our overseeding. By striving to keep the seed mowed at the lowest height it can accommodate without loss of seed due to stress, we will downplay the inconvenience. Additionally, light topdressing, when possible, will provide a smoother and faster putting surface even though we may be mowing at 1/4". The golfer primarily is interested in a smooth putting surface on which a reasonable putting stroke will get the ball to the hole. A golfer could really be unconcerned about the height at which we mow as long as the putting quality is present.

My thanks to those who participated in the survey and it goes with the hope that the information can be helpful when overseeding month comes upon us next fall. ■



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