



Central Florida Crowfoots



By GARY MORGAN
Spruce Creek Golf and Racquet Club

TOPDRESSING

Topdressing is one renovation process that is sometimes overlooked or just plain taken for granted. There are so many different kinds of soil mixtures and other possibilities that you can do, depending on your particular conditions. For example: if you have an organic subsoil you may want to incorporate sand into your soil. If you have sandy greens you may want to keep them as is or add 10%-20% organic to them - maybe in the peat moss form. Whatever you choose depends on your own conditions - your budget and your personal experience.

Topdressing is becoming very involved with the newer technology of today's times. You can find different particle size, variances in sand & organic mixes - (ex. 80% sand - 20% organic), you can have additives such as charcoal and vermiculite added if you desire these in your topsoil mix.

As you can tell by now, the more additions to your topdressing, the higher the cost will be. Another costly item these days is the freight charge. A supplier closer to you, will make all the difference as far as the total charge will be.

Here are some superintendents and what their conditions are and what they use.

I. The Bayhill Lodge & Golf Club Jim Ellison - Superintendent

- A. 1. Age of greens - 20 years - 18th green 4 years old.
2. Age of tees - 20 years.
- B. Conditions of subsoil.
 1. Greens - 90% sand, 10% organic.
 2. Tees - 100% sand.
- C. What topsoil used & why.
 1. Greens - when aerified uses 95% sand and 5% organic mix. Aerifies 2 times per year. Other months topdresses once per month with 100% sand mix. These topdressings are done along with verticle mowing.
 2. Tees - aerified uses 100% sand mix for topdressing. Aerify 2 times/year.

D. Comments:

1. Greens - speed being accomplished range somewhere between 7-8. Very satisfied with results of topdressing. Only change that may be made is to go to a 100% topdressing of sand after aerify instead of 95%-5%.
2. Tee - no change - very satisfied.

II. Mt. Dora Golf Club

T.G. Boyd - Superintendent.

- A. 1. Age of greens: - 9 holes 23 years old.
9 holes 21 years old.
2. Age of tees: - 9 holes 23 years old.
9 holes 21 years old.
- B. Conditions of subsoil.
 1. Greens - from surface to 6" deep there is a layer of 100% organic dirt plus peat. From the 6" deeper is the regular Florida Sand.
Tees - older tees - same subsoil as greens. Newer tees - 80% sand - 20% organic soil.
- C. What topsoil used & why.
 1. Greens - most topsoiling done is along with aerifying. Uses a 60%-40% mix 2 times/year. a 3rd topsoil is applied of 100% coarse trap sand. Where thinning of turf may occur then spot treatments of topdressing are done.
 2. Tees - same program as greens.
- D. Comments:
 1. Greens - since there is such a high amount of organic in the soil, Boyd is trying a new approach to mixing the subsoil - rather than to completely rebuild his greens. He is "Subsoiling" to the 6" depth to mix the Florida Sand with high organic subsoil. He has attached irrigation wire to a sod cutter (specific attachment) and injects the wire into the ground like you would a sod cutter. He then uses the wire underneath the soil as a mixer of soil. After this is done he topdresses with sand. He has done one green and is getting excellent results.
 2. Tees - not a problem.

(Continued on Page 31)

(Continued from Page 16)

III. Spruce Creek Golf Club.

Gary Morgan - Superintendent.

- A. 1. Age of greens - 7 years.
2. Age of tees - 7 years (10 new Pro tees have been built in last year).
- B. Conditions of subsoil.
1. Greens - all but 5 greens are 80% sand - 20% organic. 5 problem greens are 50% - 50%.
2. Tees - older tees range from 60% - 40% to 80% 20%. New tees are 95% sand - 5% organic.
- C. What topsoil used & why.
1. Greens - use 80% sand - 20% peat with charcoal added (@ $\frac{1}{8}$ " thick - equivalent to 3 lb/-1000 charcoal). Topsoil is applied when aerifying and various times of growing season when needed. Charcoal is used to cleanse the soil and to make it warmer for faster head time. Same topdressing was used at overseeding time to help deactivate the kerb, instead of spraying charcoal through sprayer. Results were satisfactory the 1st time tried.
2. Tees - 80 - 20 mix used where and when needed.
- D. Comments:
1. Greens - happy with results. The greens where subsoil is 50-50 are to be rebuilt soon.
2. Tees - satisfied with results.

IV. Suntree Country Club

Ron Andrews - Superintendent.

- A. 1. Age of greens on new nine holes planted Nov. 1, 1981.
2. Age of tees on new nine holes planted 2nd week of Nov., 1981.
- B. Conditions of subsoil.
1. Greens - 85% sand - 15% peat (Mixed off site).
2. Tees - 80% sand - 20% peat (Mixed off site).
- C. What topsoil used & why.
1. Greens - straight sand is being used. This is the same sand that was used in the building of the greens.
2. Tees - 90% sand - 10% peat mix.
- D. Comments:
1. Greens - topdress 1st 3 times starting 2nd week of January, 1982 with straight sand then aerified with $\frac{1}{4}$ " tines - 3 times and each time topdressed with sand and rolled to get smoothness of a level surface. Happy with results.
2. Tees - since 2nd week of January, 1982 they have been aerified and topdressed with 90% sand - 10% peat — 2 times. Satisfied with results.

As you can tell we have quite a few different ideas on what is done on each superintendent's course. It all depends on what's best for you, your course and your budget.

I would personally like to thank, on behalf of the Central Florida Chapter, the superintendents and their professionals who attended the 2nd Pro-Superintendents Meeting and Golf held at East Lake Woodlands Golf Club, Tarpon Springs on May 17. I think we showed each other that we are both professionals in our own right and that we are willing to communicate so that our clubs will be successful. Remember superintendents — The Professional is a close friend to us, lets make him feel the way that we want to feel. See you at the next Pro-Superintendents sometime in the Fall 1982. ■

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