

transition management?

PB: We hand mow exclusively, double cutting as many as 5 times per week. We skip Sundays and Thursdays. I've found that double cutting, even at higher heights, produces a denser stand of grass and a good surface. To take out the overseed we drop the HOC near an 1/8" and top dress aggressively every two weeks. I use Dale Mitchell's top dressing blend that includes 6-9-16 fertilizer, humic acid and wetting agent. I think it helps promote the return of the bermuda. I also cut back the irrigation to every other night.

JJ: Are you using growth regulators?

PB: I think Primo has been one of the best advances in our industry. We used to bail hay in the summer. My club was built in 1919. We have a Heinz 57 variety of grasses out there. It's like a miracle providing uniformity, density and reducing seedheads and clippings. We are almost wall to wall in using it. I go 10 oz/A on my tees and 12-13 oz/A in the roughs.

### Joe Ondo, Winter Pines GC, Winter Park.



JJ: Joe, what are you doing different these days?

JO: We used to seed the first of November and try to be up and growing by the Thanksgiving holidays which is a busy time for us. This year we seeded the first week in December. We stayed with our Gator, Derby and Regal rye mix at 30-35 pounds per thousand and added 2-5 pounds of Winter Play Poa triv per thousand two weeks later to fill in any voids or thin pots after the rye was up. It was one of our best catches ever! Next year, less rye and more Poa triv.

JJ: Anything else unusual?

JO: We have seven greens that are new. We spiked all the greens three to four ways, but we also verticut the older greens two ways before seeding. We used the Rubigan program to treat some greens that had a Poa annua problem in the past.

But we will just monitor them next year. Because of the age difference we also supplement our IBDU and Liquid fertilizer program with some 0-8-16 on the newer greens.

JJ: How about transition?

JO: As you know we are a very busy public course so we try to hold the overseeding until Memorial Day. We spike weekly in March and lightly verticut going deeper gradually. Then we renovate in June. If the collars are weak we just do the greens. I increase the fertility by using 19-0-17 and 1/2 pound per thousand of ammonium sulfate or nitrate.

JJ: Have you tried growth regulators?

JO: Last year was the first year. I put some on the fairways once and watched the turf response. We used it on our range and wetter fairways. The turf tightened up and could support the weight of our large mower. I'm not sure about using it on greens or tees. If you have a disease, how do you grow it out? Not ready to go once per month, but it is a tool that can be used under special circumstances.

### Mark Hopkins, Sun N' Lake, Sebring.

JJ: Mark, tell me something new?

MH: Well, I use straight Gator ryegrass at 30 pounds per thousand. We close each nine for a week. I verticut and drag brush them the day before we seed. I use Harrell's 6-12-18 starter mix the day after the seed goes down. We keep them moist till they germinate. I keep them at 1/4" for a month and drop them to 5/32" after January 1st.

JJ: How about routine management?

MH: From January on we lightly verticut and top dress every week and a half to two weeks conditions permitting. We try to maintain green speeds between 8 and 9. By mid April we are verticutting and aerifying. I check greens color and clippings harvest to determine when to fertilize. Generally, we apply 14-2-14 once per month with an iron supplement for color as needed. Going into the renovation we'll pump them up with a little sulfate or nitrate to stimulate the bermuda.

JJ: Are you a Primo fan also?

MH: Haven't used it! Going to use it

this year. We are closing nine holes this summer to rebuild some greens and I'll use it on the fairways to save time. Then we'll see how it goes!

## RUB OF THE GREEN

# WANTED: Golf Course Superintendent

**Qualifications:** College graduate with extensive knowledge and experience is the following fields: Turf Grass Management, Horticulture, Irrigation, Design and Repair, Construction, Personnel Management, Budget Development and Implementation, Mechanics, and Public Relations. You must be willing to work as many hours as necessary to get the job done, regardless of personal life. You must be willing to work for hundreds of bosses who will second guess every decision and program you propose. You will be expected to forecast, compensate for and budget for every whim of nature. You must be able to motivate underpaid employees to produce top-quality work on a daily basis. All these goals must be accomplished without interruption to play or inconvenience to the membership. Finally, you must be willing to work in a Barn.

*Editor's Note: America On Line E-mail from CPTxAggie from a "GCS newsletter in the Northwest."*