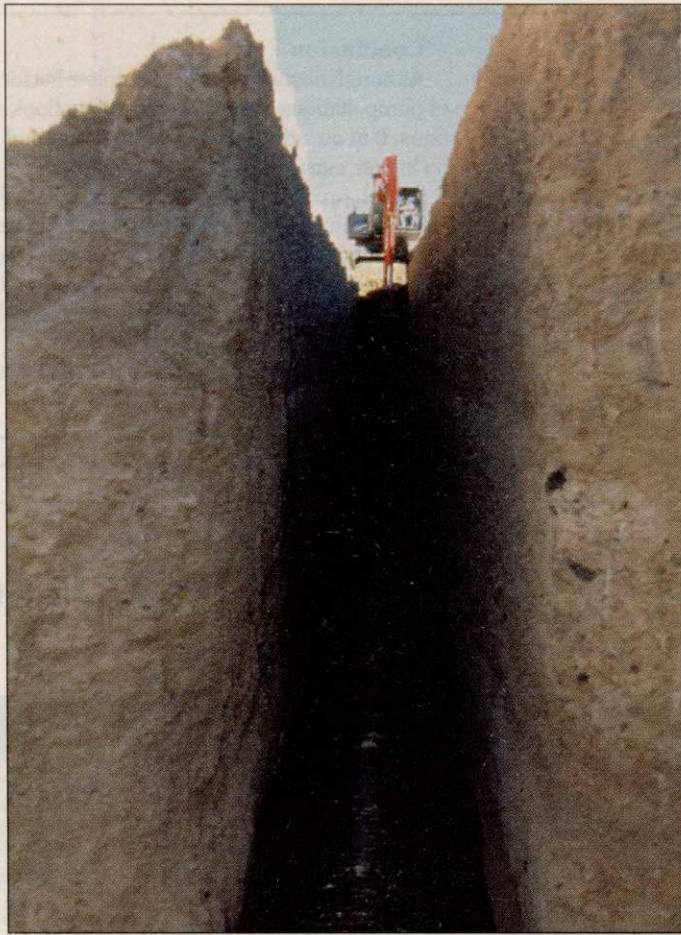


FLOOD PLANS

At first glance, flood control may not seem like a big issue in a desert region like Las Vegas, but with localized thunderstorms capable of producing a year's average rainfall in just a few minutes, the potential for trouble is real. Pictured here, crews at Southern Highlands Golf Club, which will open in December, bury a 48-inch drainage pipe to handle the run-off produced by even the largest projected storms. In addition to adding a measure of safety, the massive drainage pipe will help provide members of the private club with better playing conditions year-round by enabling the course to shed excess irrigation water and rainfall more quickly.



Winter prep reports nationwide

Name: Dave Fearis
Course: Blue Hills CC
Location: Kansas City, Mo.
Grasses: Tees and Fairways — zoysia; Greens — bentgrass; Roughs — bluegrass.

"With the warm-season grasses (zoysia), we don't do anything to them after August. The first frost it goes off-color. We do all the verticutting and aerifying to the zoysia in the summer months. In September we raise the zoysia's height of cut.



David Fearis

"We put applications of iron and sulfate of potash on all types of turf in late September and early October.

"We overseed the bluegrass roughs with the new tall fescues in the fall. The bluegrass just isn't suited for this Transition area. We'll overseed any spots that need it. There will be quite a few this year because of the hot weather we've had. Then we'll do late-fall fertilization on the cool-season grasses.

"We'll aerify all the new tall fescue green banks in September and overseed them before doing an October fertilization.

"If the fall is real dry, we watch the zoysia going into the winter. Most of the zoysia here is lost in February and March. If it warms for a week that time of year, the zoysia comes out of dormancy, dries out and dies when the temperatures turn real cold again. So you have to think of not letting that zoysia go into the fall in a real dry state.

"The landscaping plants may receive an anti-transpirant in November that coats the leaves so they don't transpire and lose as much moisture.

"With the zoysia dormant and the overseeded bluegrass roughs, carts are required to stay on the paths through winter. We time the cart-path only rule to the frost."

Name: Mike Pock
Course: Grayhawk Golf Club
Location: Scottsdale, Ariz.
Grasses: Greens — bentgrass; Fairways, tees, roughs — ryegrass (winter), Bermudagrass (summer).

"Sometime between the second week of September and Nov. 1 you select a date to overseed then close the course for two to three weeks.

"We tear up all the tees, fairways and roughs. We'll dry them out for a few days, then verticut the summer Bermudagrass away to the point where there is no green on them. Then we overseed with 400 to 800 pounds of ryegrass seed per acre. We still have some 100-degree days in September, so I put Primo [a growth regulator] down on the Bermudagrass so it won't come back so fast and the ryegrass has a chance to win the battle.

"While we're shut down we aerify all our [bentgrass] greens; paint the trash cans, benches and ball washers; and do the busy work we don't get to normally. It also gives the greens a chance to heal after surviving the summer.

"We spray a lot of urea and iron to force growth in the fall. When the seeds first germinate there's only one or two blades per seed. If I can turn that into nine blades per seed it helps."

Name: Ken Giedd
Course: Kingsmill Resort
Location: Williamsburg, Va.
Grasses: Tees and Fairways — zoysia; Greens — bentgrass; Roughs — bluegrass.

"In August, we'll begin planning winter projects and putting down a pre-emergent poa annua control.



Ken Giedd

"We don't even think about winter in September. We've got to get through the PGA Michelob Classic first.

"October is time to overseed all Bermudagrass areas, harden off warm-season grasses with high P-K fertilizers, and aerify cool-season grasses.

"In November we make the last checks of the irrigation system before drainage. We check the heaters in the restrooms and pump stations. We apply any post-emergent poa controls and winter annual controls. The outdoor water fountains are removed and spring bulbs planted (pansies for winter color).

"December means ordering sand and de-icer, checking snow blades and sand spreaders, and conducting the last cool-season fertility measures.

"We order parts for the winter overhaul of equipment, purchase supplies for winter projects, and prepare a crew training schedule.

"January is a time to relax and cut back to a 50-hour work week, unless it snows — then it's 60 to 70 hours. Business as usual."

Name: Scott Cybulski
Course: Falmouth CC
Location: Falmouth, Maine
Grasses: Tees, Greens, Fairways — bentgrass; Roughs — bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, fine fescues.

"I start at the end of August by reserving a compressor to blow out the irrigation system in late October. I need to have it the week before the big compressors head up to the ski areas to make snow for the winter.

"I'll order my snow mold control the first week in September. The majority of our damage comes from pink snow mold. We'll probably start those applications the third week of October. After that, the opportunity for good spraying becomes limited.

"I'm sitting on the fence about dormant fertilizing. The risks may be starting to outweigh the benefits.

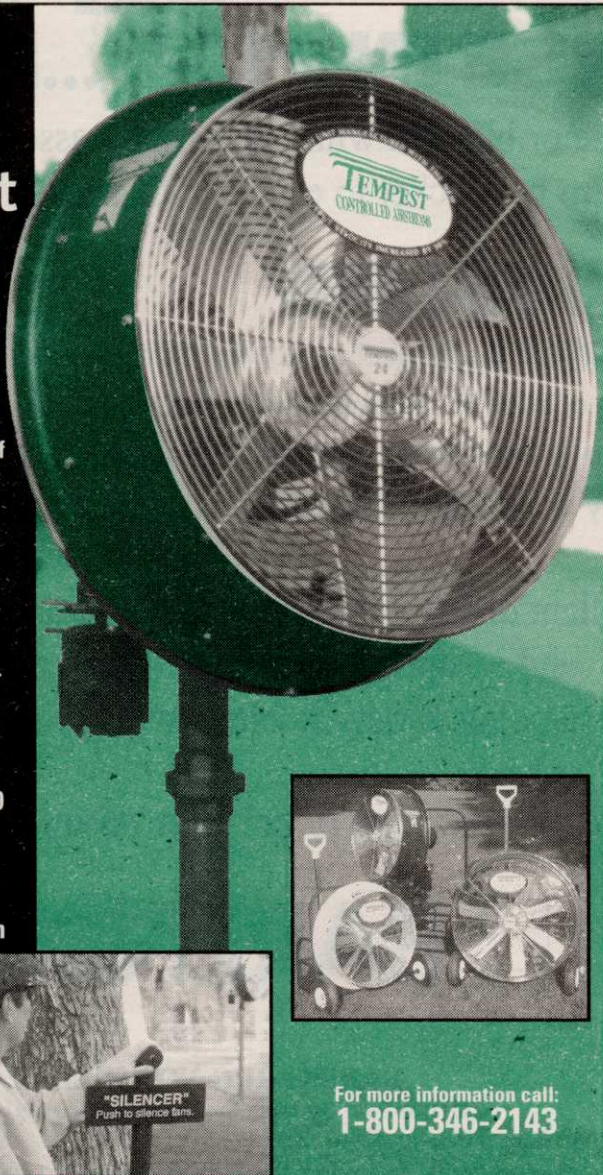
"Last fall, particularly in Southern New England, grass came out of dormancy in early December while it still had fertilizer on it. It softened up, soaked up some of the nitrogen, and some guys ended up losing greens. Normally I'd do that in late November.

"We'll put turf covers on 10 of our greens around Thanksgiving, before the ground freezes, which makes it so hard to get those staples in. We'll stake and rope off the greens to keep the cross-country skiers and snowmobilers off. And we'll put rigid insulation over the irrigation heads about then."

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