

MAINTENANCE

Dormant Seeding

Continued from page 9

the initial stages of germination during the late fall and early winter period before entering a frozen state throughout the winter. In this period, the enzyme and carbohydrate processes that occur during actual germination become dormant. Because the seed is partially germinated, it is four to six weeks ahead of a spring planted seed.

TIMING IS CRITICAL

I have used this technique successfully for over 15 years in the New England states and presently in Colorado. This work has primarily involved using bentgrass, but I



For more dormant seeding tips from Kevin Ross, visit www.golfcoursenews.com

have seen it work with all cool-season grasses. Depending on your region, the timing may change slightly.

Establishing test plots is the best way to determine the proper timing in your area. The easiest method can be achieved by using a hex plug cutter, removing the plugs, and using your standard divot/seed mix, seeding these plugs. During the time period you think might work best, you can seed one hole (plug) per day, over a 14 to 21 day period.

I have observed dormant seed germination as early as the first week in April when soil temperatures are in the high 30s to low 40s. This can catch some people by surprise and is a critical time period for the germinated seed because warm and windy spring periods can cause failure. Proper water management of these areas and close monitoring will spell success.

COST

Excluding the cost of fairway seeding, a typical program with bentgrass for greens, and divots on tees and fairways is about \$2,500. This is a small price to pay for an insurance policy which can provide very large dividends in the spring. ■

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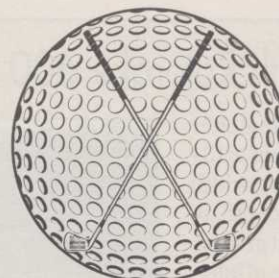
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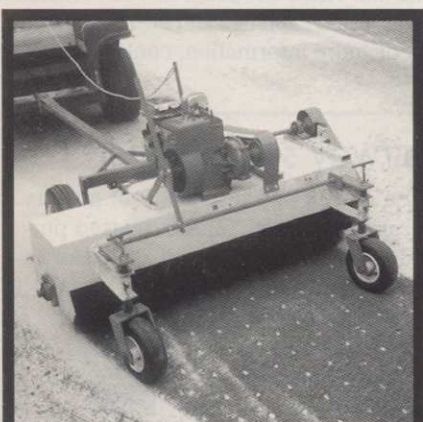
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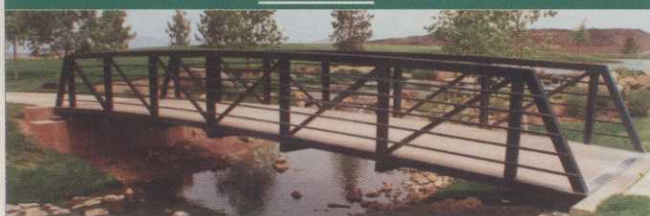
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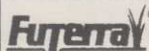
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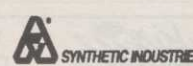


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