

Sandy Solution



Cedar Ridge Country Club
Broken Arrow, Okla.
Mike Wooten, superintendent
18-hole, regulation-length course
Private equity golf course
71 par - 7,290 yards - 138 slope

In the heat of the Oklahoma summer, Cedar Ridge Country Club, located in the city of Broken Arrow, sees wear and tear from the mowers on the edges of the greens. Because the course greens are bentgrass with Bermuda grass collars, the collars don't see as much damage as other courses might see, but the edges still cause a problem. To deal with this, the club uses a 3-foot drop fertilizer spreader and fills it with sand. After putting down a heavy cover of sand on the edges of the greens, they broom it weekly to keep the edges and the paths around the area looking tidy. They also try to keep the mowers from bumping the sand when they mow around the edges to avoid any further damage.

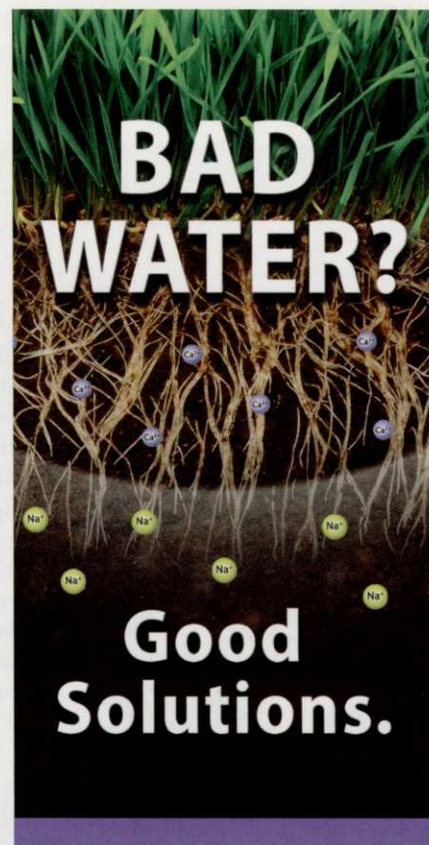
The idea of using the sand came from seeing the damage to the greens from mowing. When they would mow, it would destroy the edges, and they knew they had to firm them up to prevent that from continuously happening. The sand was a good way to do so.

Before deciding on the sand, Cedar Ridge tried to move the cleanup grass one width of a walking greens mower, and then mow at a different height to have a little bentgrass collar. It worked reasonably well, but Mike Wooten, the superintendent at Cedar Ridge, believes the sand works better. And while he knows there are probably better ways to prevent damage than laying down the sand, those ways would be too disruptive to play during the summer months when the course is the busiest.

"Aerification and filling holes with sand would be exceptional, but too disruptive on bentgrass," he says.

Another thing they do to prevent damage is use a dull side-walk edger to edge the interface between the Bermudagrass green and bentgrass collar. The reason for the dull blade is that it does a cleaner job and doesn't destroy the Bermudagrass like a sharpened blade would.

"We had used a sharp [edger] before," Wooten says. "It was a little bit of tearing and we just went with it. We found that the dull one doesn't do the tearing. It just cuts the Bermuda runners off."



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