



Prep School

Ron Forse, of Forse Design in Hopwood, Pa., offers the following tips for fairway renovation:

Kill thoroughly whatever grass you are replacing.

Forse says you must overcome your instincts about keeping grass alive. Such sentiments serve no purpose in a fairway renovation.

"You have to kill everything in sight," Forse says. "What you're aiming to do is give yourself a fresh start"

Forse suggests one or two applications of a non-selective herbicide will usually do the job.

Cut the sod and bury it.

It's important to take off the first few inches of soil and bury it, Forse says. That will help the sterilizer kill whatever weed seeds are hiding in the top layer.

Do any regrading before you sterilize the soil.

Forse says any earth movement should be done before the sterilizer is applied. If you wait to move the earth until afterward, you'll create an uneven application which may not sterilize the soil completely.

Rototill the soil to break up any impediments that might block the deep penetration of the fumigant.

Soil fumigants, like fertilizers and other turf chemicals, need room to move within the soil to provide maximum effectiveness. Breaking up the soil and providing air spaces for the fumigants to move in will help the sterilization.

Apply the soil sterilizer.

Make sure you understand how to apply the sterilizer and what you need to do to keep it acting properly. In the case of Basamid®, for example, the sterilizer is water activated, so you need to make sure you get enough water on the ground to start it working. Also, make sure you allow the sterilizer enough time to do its work, Forse says. This can take anywhere from five to 14 days.

Cultivate the soil once it has been sterilized.

Forse recommends using a box blade to smooth out the soil after the sterilizer has done its work. That provides a proper resting place for the grass seed or sprigs. After that, Forse says, you're ready to seed or sprig your fairways with new grass.

Happy grow-in.

Simple Method, Better Results

It's easy and safe to apply Basamid® on fairways. If you follow directions properly, you'll have better results.

To start your renovation project right, it's important to properly prepare the area for renovation:

- Waste cans and other items should be removed from the area, and "course closed" signs should be posted. Superintendents can also outline the renovated area with paint if they wish.

- Fairways should be mowed, and grass clippings should be blown into the rough areas and cut with a rough mower.

- Low areas of fairways should be filled with fresh soil and rolled to the proper grade.

- Fairways should then be aerated and the cores removed.

- Sprinkler heads should be flagged.

- Signs should be posted warning that "Basamid granular soil fumigant will be applied."

The steps for proper Basamid application are also vital. Follow these directions:

- After preparation of the renovation area, Basamid should be applied according to label requirements.

- The area should then be watered within 15 minutes to activate the Basamid. Make sure that no one enters the treated area for 24 hours.

- The area should be watered for the next five days — three times a day and for 15 minutes each time. But make sure the area is only moistened and not saturated. This will create a water seal that will keep the Basamid in the root zone.

- The renovated area should be left undisturbed for at least seven days after application.

- Nine days after application, the fairways are ready to be seeded with a slit seeder. After seeding, fertilizer should be applied to the area immediately.

Thereafter, superintendents should maintain the renovated fairways using their customary practices.

