

Drainage An Easier Way

By Pete VanDeHey, Golf Course Superintendent and Owner, Mid Valley Golf Club

Being the superintendent at Mid Vallee Golf Course for the past 35 years and putting up with flooded fairways, ice damaged in spring, cancelled golf outings, and course closures; I decided to do something about it.

Mid Vallee Golf Course has many fairways that have no slope to promote natural drainage. Much of the course was built on corn fields that were worked up and seeded as this was the common way to build golf courses in the 1960's. Add in the fact that the course sits on heavy soil and the two factors add up to severe drainage problems.

As we know, the problem with installing drain tile is the fact that it is very labor intensive and time consuming. That made it nearly impossible to do during the golf season, until now. By purchasing some

key equipment, I am able to install tile at an incredibly speedy rate.

We have 4 key pieces of equipment:

1. Shelton Chain Trencher - automatically loads the spoils into a trailer pulled alongside.
2. Top Con Lasers - correct slope is now very easy.
3. Fast Flow Hopper Trailer - back filling the trench is fast and easy.
4. Vermeer Compactor - no returning time and time again to backfill your trench.

These are the main components that now allow us to install up to 800' of tile in 6 hours. That includes trenching, laying of the tile, backfilling and compacting.

The last 3 years, we have installed 30,000' of tile, and for now have finished the majority of the work.

Since owning all these pieces of equipment is quite expensive, I thought it might be beneficial to other courses with similar problems if you could rent our equipment instead of purchasing your own.

Here is how I envision it to work: I would deliver the equipment to your course, and I would spend a day or whatever it would take to get someone accustomed to the operation, and also share all the secrets I have learned over the past 3 years. I would be willing to offer my help in the design of your drainage system, or better yet, have an outside firm implement a design for your particular problem.

For more information, e-mail me at Pete@midvallee.com or call 920-621-5605. I would be glad to help you with your drainage problems.



Equipment Mid Valley Golf Course has purchased to allow for a easier drainage project. The trencher is lazer guided to allow for accurate slopes.

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Above Left : A clean trench ready for filling



Above Right: The fast flow hopper trailer

Right: A freshly filled trench with no mess.



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Phil Spitz
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