

# Lake City Golf Course Looks Normal Now

April 28, 1991. That's a day Cliff Reynolds would just as soon forget.

Cliff Reynolds is the grounds superintendent at the Lake City Country Club. April 28, 1991 was the day a local elevator came in to apply what was supposed to be slow-release nitrogen fertilizer.

Only problem was, it wasn't.

It was atrazine. You know, the stuff you've heard about on those farming commercials on TV. . . the stuff that kills grasses.

"It took about five to seven days before we noticed anything," said Reynolds. "At first it was just a little tip of brown on the grass.

"We knew that wasn't right, so we upped the water. But the brown just kept getting larger and larger."

The end result was a disaster. The club eventually had to remove 8 inches of dirt from each of the infected fairways and replace it with new dirt.

The course was closed from the first week in June through the end of August, while Reynolds attempted to bring things back to life.

Boy, did he.

Play a round at the Lake City Country Club today and you'd never know anything was ever amiss. Reynolds has the fairways back to their original, well-manicured condition.

But not without some major doses of hard work.

"The hours were incredible," said Reynolds of the work last summer. "If we got home with less than 55 hours a week, it seemed like we had a day off."

Helping to speed the recovery of the turf was the club's purchase of an \$18,000 Verti-Drain European Deep-tyne aerator.

"The new soil wasn't as porous as the old soil, plus it got compacted by the heavy vehicles we had in here," said Reynolds.

That's where the Verti-Draener comes in. The machine, which rumbles along at a quarter-mile-an-hour clip, punches holes 10-12 inches down into the soil.

Every fairway got the once over, with trouble spots getting an extra time or two.

The resulting turnaround has been nothing short of miraculous. "We're tickled to death," said Reynolds.

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## Managing for Moisture Stress—

*(Continued from Page 9)*

fescue ► hard fescue ► red fescue ► Kentucky bluegrass ► perennial ryegrass. In going from perennial ryegrass to tall fescue, the reduction in water use is typically in the range of 20 to 30%. The exact amount depends on the varieties that are compared.

Varietal drought tolerance studies have been most extensive for Kentucky bluegrass. Among the older varieties, Adelphi, Touchdown, Newport and Baron reportedly have lower evapotranspiration rates than do Merion, Sydsport, Birka, Majestic and Nugget. Recently reported Illinois ratings for drought tolerance indicate that Unique, Opal and SR 2000 have high drought tolerance, while Miracle, Kenblue, Nublue and Liberty have low tolerance.

—The Grass Roots

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