

Preparing a Course for Winter

By Tom Feriancek
Hastings Country Club

(Editor's Note: Tom Feriancek, Hastings C.C., was asked to give Hole Notes his procedure for preparing his course for the winter. This information may be helpful and perhaps we can apply this method to our own courses.)

Mowing: We put our walk-behind greenmowers away and use our triplexes to mow greens after Labor Day. Normal height of cut is 5/32" but following aeration around Labor Day, it is raised to 11/64". After a stressful summer we thought it beneficial to grow some roots and have a healthy turf going into winter. Our mowing frequency decreases with the cold temperatures and by mid-October greens are cut as needed until the end of the month.

Topdressing: Greens are given a light topdressing the first week of October.

Irrigation: With fall comes the cool temperatures. It allows us to firm up the turf and force roots down for moisture. Irrigation is used very sparingly until the lines are blown out the last week of October.

Fertilizer: (All rates are per 1000 sq. ft.) During the second week of September, greens and tees get 1/2 lb. of N & 1 lb. of K. Fairways are fertilized at the rate of 1 lb. of N & 1/2 lb. of K the last week in August. Greens, tees, fairways get a dormant feeding using Milorganite at the 1 lb. rate.

Fungicides: Greens, tees, fairways receive 9 oz. PCNB October 15. Tees are treated a second time the last week of October with Tersan SP for

gray snowmold. Calo-clor is applied to greens at 3 oz. the first week in November.

Green covers: We have 10 greens covered with Excelsior Blankets which are normally put on around November 15. Also, all greens are co-

vered with brush. Here's what Tom considers most important in preparing the course for winter: A combination of a healthy dense turf, not overly stimulated with late season N, and a well-timed, calibrated and properly applied snow mold plant protectant.

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1995 Survey Update

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