

Turf Management

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Not Ready for Prime Time Seedings

The prime time for spring seeding of cool season turfgrasses has past. Normally February 15th through March 30th are considered the best dates in which to spring seed turfgrasses in Maryland. The environmental conditions during these dates are usually more favorable for seed germination and seedling establishment. Later in the spring, temperature and moisture extremes may create an unfavorable environment for the seedling grasses. Therefore the chances of a successful establishment are far greater when seeding before April 1st, but by no means does this mean that a later planting won't be successful.

Many situations arise where there is a need to establish a turf cover during the late spring and summer months. In some areas, like road cuts or strip mined land, permanent stabilization of the soil can be achieved by using species which establish themselves well during hot, dry periods. Weeping lovegrass and Korean lespedeza are two which are frequently used. In other areas, like around newly constructed homes or commercial buildings or on a new tee or fairway, the establishment of turf-type grass species is more desirable. Many counties require soil stabilization around newly constructed buildings before occupancy. Generally there are three options to consider in these cases, and they include sodding, establishing a warm season grass or seeding a cool season grass and living with the consequences.

Sodding is probably the best alternative to establishing a cool season turf during the late spring and early
(continued on page 7)

Cup Placement Rules - How Important?

Rules on where to place a cup? There are none—official, that is. The USGA, Godfather of golf play and playing conditions, has wisely only offered suggestions and left good judgment to you. There is little question about the importance of proper cup placement and proficiency in chancing the location. Important it is because 54 shots in each 18-hole round are concerned with pin placement—18 to the green and 36 on the green—a mere 60 to 75% of all the strokes a golfer should need.

Here's what the USGA says:

1. If possible, have the cup at least five paces (15 feet or so) from the green's edge and further than this from any sand bunker.
 2. Place it in as near a level area as possible and level over a six foot diameter if possible. The ball, when putted should not gather speed or have excessive break. The player should be able to putt boldly for the hole.
 3. Always use good judgment to permit fairness for the golfer.
 4. Avoid tricky cup placement.
- Other things to consider:
5. Qualifications of the players.
 6. Size and condition of the green.
 7. When changing cups, avoid leaving a raised edge around the rim.
 8. Make sure the old hole surface is as low as the surrounding green surface.
 9. So you have built in problems that don't give you much choice. Just do the best you can and maybe the devil will forgive you anyway. Remember, there are plenty of others in the same boat.

Did You Know?

The rules of golf say a golfer does have a few rights while playing a round. Some of these are as follows:

- The right to remove man-made objects from bunkers before playing a stroke.
- The right to replace a club broken in the normal course of play.

- The right to bend fixed or growing things in the act of fairly taking the stance.
- The requirement to re-drop if a dropped ball rolls into a hazard or out of bounds.
- The requirement to place a ball to be placed or replaced in a similar lie of the original lie is altered while the ball is lifted.

(continued on page 5)

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Plan Ahead To Keep People Satisfied With Jobs

Even the most routine golf course maintenance job has peak work loads from time to time. That's when it will pay—even though you may be busiest then yourself—to plan what should be tackled next.

Many jobs require considerable preparatory lead-time before people can actually get down to work. If a gap is allowed to develop between the end of one job and the beginning of the next, it will be that much harder to get everyone back up to speed. The way to achieve a high level of enthusiasm is to have new challenges ready ahead of time for people to sink their teeth into. When one assignment ends, get people started on another one as promptly as you can. Pick a new goal and keep things moving.

The visitor paid his green fees, fixed up a match, and went out to the first tee. Taking his stance, he gave a wild swing, and missed completely.

"By Jove!" he said to his opponent, "it's a good thing I found out early in the game that this course is at least two inches lower than the one I usually play on."

It's strange that people brag about being average. After all, average is the worst of the good and best of the bad.

A fresh ball mark repaired by a player takes only five seconds.

A freshly repaired ball mark will completely heal in twenty-four hours.

A fresh ball mark left unrepaired for only one hour requires fifteen days.

Before the ugly scar has satisfactorily healed please repair all ball marks.

Did You Know?

(continued from page 3)

- The right to clean a ball when obtaining relief without penalty from obstructions, casual water and ground under repair.
- Exemption from penalty for moving an opponent's ball if it was moved in the act of searching for it.
- The right to replace a ball if it is so damaged during play of a hole that it is unfit for play.

A Golf Superintendent

A purchasing agent, too?

A golf course superintendent gets called various names, especially after closing the course on Saturday afternoon; however, seldom is he referred to as a "purchasing agent." Nevertheless—along with titles such as agronomist, pathologist, plumber, and electrician—"purchasing agent" is apropos.

A young superintendent soon learns that the role of purchasing agent is another arduous task that college courses somehow never even mentioned. Consequently, he often tries to take buying decisions without proper criteria. Every course has different needs, but all superintendents face the same questions: When do I purchase? How much do I purchase? What is a fair price?

The answer to each question is bound to vary—the reasoning behind each answer is similar. How much to purchase is relevant to the size of your budget and the course. However, the proportion is similar for all courses. No office buys a yearly supply of stamps, envelopes, and stationary at the beginning of the year;

(continued on page 8)

Mid-Atlantic Superintendent Pro Tournament

Tuesday, June 13, 1978

Indian Spring C.C.
Silver Spring, Maryland

INCLUDES:

PRO PURSE: \$350.00 for 8 places

SUPERINTENDENTS: Prizes of merchandise

GOLF & PRIZES: \$10.00 per man

LUNCH: Available in Grill

COCKTAILS: 6:00 p.m.

DINNER: 7:00 p.m.

PRICES:

DINNER ONLY: \$10.00

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