

'Get on site, before the heavy equipment arrives, to know what's there.'

—Donald Ferreri
Seven Bridges G.C.

taking over with the fescues doing better on the slopes. Tees got Penncross seed with Pennlinks for the greens, both applied with a Milorganite carrier. The fairways are Penneagle.

At the time of seeding, he reports that he also used a starter fertilizer and a granular fungicide to control damping off. "I think that was very worthwhile," says Ferreri.

—Ron Hall



Aerial view shows that holes 2, 3 and 5 are challenging and green at Seven Bridges.

Height of cut, turf accessories keys to greens management

These experienced greens experts use turf rollers, groomers and specially-blended topdressing mixes.

■ Whether you're managing greens for tournament play, the daily club membership or the general public, the goal is the same: a quality putting surface, as free as possible of disease and other turf maladies.

Here are some tips on greens care, from leading superintendents, as presented at the last Ohio Turf Conference.

Bob Brame, USGA agronomist and ex-superintendent:

"Successful greens management depends on the quality of the turf foundation you've established in preparation for day-to-day maintenance."

Brame believes a good turf foundation includes:

- a suitable growing environment;
- height of cut;
- fertility programs; and
- water management.

"With mowing height, you've got to draw the line. $\frac{3}{8}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch or higher is a better growing environment," says Brame. "The shorter the turfgrass, the more likely it is that *Poa annua* will become a problem."

Brame also believes that fans are valuable for lowering leaf blade temperature.

Brame is in step with the recent trend to walking mowers. "They require more time," he admits, "but result in better playability."

Rollers? Don't push it, he says. You don't have to cut the greens as close when using rollers, but some superintendents do both. Know the limitations of the specific green.

When it comes to fertility programs, remember, says Brame, that a well fed turf system will be more resistant to disease.

Tom Walker, superintendent at the Inverness Club, Toledo, Ohio:

Walker manages 62,000 sq. ft. of putting surfaces. His greens endure more than 28,000 rounds every season, so Walker has learned to treat each green individually.

The maintenance season begins in late August. Soluble forms of nitrogen are used to get the turf ready for fall and winter.

Aerification is done in the fall, and crews Verti-Drain two or three times each year, usually in mid-late October and mid-late November. A Toro Hydroject water aerator is used at one- to three-week intervals.

Walker goes easy on spring fertilization. In summer, a slow-release product is applied to avoid burning and flush growth.

Walker uses a special 80-20 topdressing mix that's blended off-site.

"We try to apply topdressing on

Monday, at a rate of one to three cubic feet per 1000 sq. ft. Once we've applied it, we sweep it with tennis court brooms, to get it into the aeration holes."

Traffic management is conducted at three to four prime pin spots on each green, and Walker picks the location each day. To keep green speed consistent, he makes sure it stimps between 10.3 and 10.6—11 for tournaments.

"We mow 7 to 10 times a week, roll the greens four times each week," he notes. "We try to balance the fertility program, and try not to focus on one element."

Randy Boudinot, superintendent at Country Club of the North, Dayton, Ohio:

He applies topdressing twice each month during summer. In spring, it's three times each month.

In the summer, an 80/20 topdressing mix is applied at a rate of 2 cu. ft. per 1000 sq. ft.

"We walk the greens when we mow, and five of the mowers have turf groomers, which we use two to three times a week. The groomers are usually set at half the mowing height. They add a nice touch, and turf groomers make it easier to increase green speed."

Brushes are used once, sometimes twice a week.

Boudinot plans ahead, and works out weekly and monthly maintenance programs. And get your staff involved as much as possible, Boudinot says.

"They do a better job when I get them involved. Let them know what you want to accomplish."

—Terry McIver