

Central Texas Overseeded Greens Transition and Expectations

By: Wayne Slaton, Golf Course Superintendent

The welcome color of green grass on putting surfaces and lush turf to hit from on the tees and fairways in Central Texas? Yes, yet you will have to take a calculated risk on the long-term success of our decision to overseed these areas of the golf course. After the joy of 6-7 months during winter to spring to summer, playing on these overseeded areas late May to June, it's time for the poa triv and the perennial rye grass to fade away with the upcoming Central Texas 90 plus degree temperatures. This will take time for the base turf of our old tif-Dwarf greens and Tif-419 to start to overtake and fill in the voids of the cool season overseeded turf grasses.

Our team is dedicated and does the best they can to get notifications out to keep you informed. Our prime golf maintenance days are Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesdays during the growing season. Most early weekdays, our Golf Course Maintenance (GCM) team is doing what they can to improve playing conditions incorporating good cultural practices of our agronomy plan. Solid tinning, verti-cutting, and yes everyone's favorite, topdressing greens. Without these very important procedures that we follow to take care our greens, playing conditions are limited to the execution of these processes to keep greens healthy and putting well.



Without verti-cutting, just one of the results is poa anna becomes more of a speed bump, thus effecting smoothness of a true ball roll. No solid tinning, just one result is no oxygen to the roots which can suffocate the turf and make it weak and start to thin. When oxygen runs out, nothing else will matter, turf life stops. No topdressing, one result is the small potholes in the turf are not filled to grow smooth turf on the green and the ball will bounce, slow down, and not roll smoothly. For green speed, regularly topdressing with sand is an important factor.

USGA link below help explain some of the factors that can effect turfgrass transition :

<https://www.usga.org/content/dam/usga/pdf/imported/course-care/050322.pdf>

During those important prime maintenance days we often encounter limitations that don't allow these procedures to take place. Factors such as tournaments, rain, no equipment, broken equipment, irrigation not working correctly, and irrigation mainline breaks can back up the progress of our greens consistency and delay greens improvement. Then, if you get behind, to catch up it is like waiting on I-35 in traffic at 8:00 a.m. on the way downtown.

I hope this has been educational. Reminder, the next time we see you on our golf course, nothing happens fast in turfgrass, unless it is sod or turf death. May all your putts find the bottom of the cup.