

Wintertime Turf & Tree Care

*By Wayne Slaton, Golf Course Superintendent
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As the seasons shift, so does our approach to course care. While Central Texas offers us the luxury of year-round golf, winter still brings its own set of challenges—and opportunities—for maintaining healthy turf and trees.

Turf Tips for Winter Prep

- **Mow Less, But Smarter**
As temperatures drop, reduce mowing frequency and avoid cutting too low. A healthy stand of warm-season turf going into dormancy helps protect the crown and roots.
 - **Water Before a Freeze**
Light irrigation 12–48 hours before a hard freeze can help insulate the turf and reduce freeze damage.
 - **Fertilizer Timing Matters**
If you haven't overseeded, avoid fertilizing after the first frost. Best practice: stop fertilizing at least **6 weeks before** the expected first hard freeze.
 - **Pre-Emergent Weed Control**
Apply with care—some pre-emergent herbicides can harm spring green-up or damage overseeded areas if used incorrectly.
 - **Greens Management**
After overseeding, we raise mowing heights to keep turf healthy. Overseed acts as a buffer against cold snaps and foot traffic.
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Tree Care: More Than Just Trimming

- **Prune for Strength**
Removing damaged or overgrown limbs helps trees grow upright and better withstand ice storms.

- **Seal Large Cuts**

Use pruning paint on larger limbs to protect against insects and disease.

- **Mulch Matters**

A layer of mulch around trees and shrubs acts like a blanket—protecting roots and conserving moisture.

 Texas Weather: Expect the Unexpected

We all know Central Texas can deliver all four seasons in a single day. But winter won't last forever—before long, our Bermuda grass will be greening up and ready for another great season of golf.

 See You on the Course!

Thanks for helping us keep the course in top shape by fixing your ball marks on the greens, filling your divots in the fairways, and staying on the cart path on our cart traffic restricted holes. Stay warm, play well, and look forward to seeing you on our golf course soon.