

Why do we need to stay on the cart paths after Overseeding?

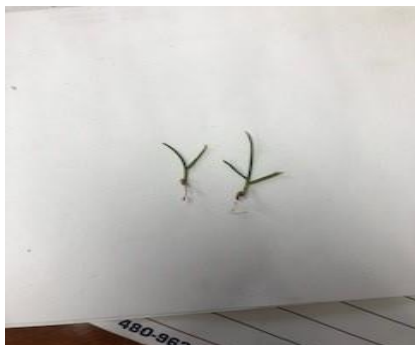
Every year, the question of 'when can we get off the cart-paths?' arises. It will be no different this year, I assure you. It's important to remember that the ryegrass was a simple seed just 2 weeks prior. The large volume of golf cart traffic is extremely damaging to the new emerging plants that haven't had the full opportunity to 'harden-off'.

After the seed is down, it's a race to get the ryegrass up and established prior to golf cart traffic. Heavy applications of water, fertilizer, and mildly warm days are required to get the new ryegrass plants to tiller and fill in. Once the new ryegrass plants have tillered to the 4th, 5th, 6th leaf stage we can begin discussions about moving from CART PATH ONLY to 90 degrees. This typically happens by Thanksgiving, some years earlier, some years later.... Mother Nature always has the final say.

Seriously... you're asking???!?!?



Not yet...!!!



Please be patient....



Getting closer....!!



Okay.... Off the paths (woot-woot!!!)



Once we are OFF the cart-paths, golf maintenance will place yellow-stakes to designate the 'no-go-zone' in front of the greens and green surround areas. Please adhere to these designations and do your part to make the course enjoyable for all golfers. Please remember to fill fairway divots, repair pitch marks onto the greens, and leave the bunkers in better shape than when you arrived.... 😊

Course update:

This year the weather has been extremely cooperative during Overseeding. Both courses are getting positive reviews after being open 1-2 weeks. I'm hoping that we get some needed rainfall over the next couple months to aid with management of 'salts' that haven't built up in the soil profile during the long summer.

We have not experienced any 'frosty' mornings, as of yet, but they will most certainly arrive at some point. There is typically 35-45 days of frosty mornings during the winter months..... 2021 (32 days) 2022 (54 days).

The cooler temps slow down the underlying bermudagrass that is typically trying to recover from Overseeding stress in November. This 'bounce-back' of the bermudagrass can give the appearance of overseeding looking great until the frosty mornings expose the dormant bermudagrass. This year... we will see soon enough?

In the opposite direction, the cooler temps slow down germination and growth of the ryegrass. This results in a practice tee not recovering at normal rate and wear areas from traffic being seen earlier in the season. This will be our first year making use of the hitting mats. There will be a 'learning-curve' of how often to remain on the hitting stations vs hitting from natural grass. The new hitting stations on the practice tees will certainly provide benefit for ryegrass germination and result in a more appealing practice area.

What else can golfers expect to see.....

The golf course will be a little 'shaggy'. What I mean by that is the height of cut in all areas of play will be a little longer until the new plants begin to tiller out and fill in after mowing forces new shoots of growth. The greens have come in very well at both golf courses and green speeds are increasing daily.

The golf course may be a little 'wetter' from fertilizer applications made to push growth of the new ryegrass in preparation for traffic. Normal operations are to apply 2 large granular fertilization applications prior to Thanksgiving. There will be some challenges with grass clippings as the plant continues to harden off.

The bunkers suffer a great deal during the overseeding process. The sand in the bunkers gets washed out from the irrigation cycles during the weeks of preparation and seeding. The teams at both facilities have put forth great efforts to repair bunkers at both facilities prior to re-opening. New replacement rakes were installed at a few areas at PV. Some replacement rakes for CW will be installed when they arrive.

Hole 9 Cottonwood



In conjunction with the Golf Committee's Water Conservation sub-committee, the Golf Maintenance team has left 4-Par 3 holes non-overseeded in the fairway sections of the golf holes..... 4,16 PV – 5,15 CW. The goal is to get an idea of how this will impact the playability of golf. The Club will have a better understanding of golf conditions if there are dramatic restrictions and/or changes to water usage for Golf. Golfers will see test plots of paints, dyes, etc. We will gain some understanding of traffic wear. We will see the benefits to the turf as we TRANSITON back to bermudagrass in the Spring and how soon it greens back up in Spring.

Some new trees have been planted at Cottonwood and Palo Verde to replace trees lost during the summer months. There are still a few more that need to be addressed throughout the property, for example, Palo Verde hole 9. The large (dead) pine tree will be removed and replaced. The team will address them over the next couple months. Golfers will see some new plants installed in a few desert areas of the golf course.... for example, 6T Cottonwood, as we move through the winter.

Golfers will see new flags, new flagsticks and new cups. There will be freshly painted signage, tee markers, ball washers, etc. The flower beds have been replanted in most all areas of the property and they're looking great. The flower frost covers will be out soon as we work through December and January.

This is an exciting time of year for the Members and for the golf maintenance team. After a long, challenging summer working to complete transition back to bermudagrass, completing aeration events, and working on special projects, Overseeding is the final major agronomic event of the year. It is a great feeling seeing all the efforts during the past 6 months result in producing a golf course that the Community can take pride in.

As always, thanks for all the support and happy golfing.