

IF GRASS COULD TALK.... Introducing a new series **"Turf Talk"** to keep you informed about the efforts to maintain our beautiful CWPV courses.

It's important to understand that we all live in a golf community. Even if you do not play the game, the existence of our two great courses have long been a draw for a steady influx of new home buyers. It helps keep our property values up, our restaurants full, highlighting and sustaining the lifestyle we all enjoy!

The Golf Committee and Management are working together to continue to improve communication on what is happening on the courses.

This week's topics are Golf course maintenance and transition time

### ***This is "Turf Talk" from Scott Anderson:***

#### **Golf Course Maintenance:**

1. Tuesday (CW) / Wednesday (PV) closures: The Tuesday-Wednesday closures have been beneficial -Summertime is one of the busiest times of the year (outside Overseeding) for golf course maintenance. It is the time of year when all the work is done to prepare for October Overseeding and winter ryegrass. During the days of closures, the team is working 10hr days. On the closure days, the team does not do any work to prepare areas for play.... Greens are not being cut unless work **is** being done, hole locations are not changed, and bunkers are not prepared unless work **is** being done. Projects, such as, vertical mowing, topdressing of greens, large aeration events for the fairways & tees, and other projects can be completed in one day without being a distraction to golfers. Irrigation auditing is done throughout the entire day when the team can visually see and evaluate operation of the system at full capacity. Leaching of salts which requires sprinkler heads to run for several hours on the greens, or other areas, can happen during the closure day. A few examples of projects that will be noticed by Members in the upcoming weeks because of the Tuesday / Wednesday closures... addressing drainage in some areas of the golf courses, sodding areas that did not TRANSITION well, bunker repair work and repositioning of sand. All these projects can be completed more quickly when there is not the need to work around golf play. **So... thank you for Tuesday, Wednesday closures**

#### **Transition Time:**

1. Every year during the spring, the golf course TRANSITIONS back to bermudagrass from winter ryegrass. This is NEVER easy. And.... it changes every year because of the dependency of weather and Mother Nature. Every Club manages this process differently depending on their financial impacts and demands of play. As you can imagine, those do not always line up with what is best agronomically. Removing ryegrass throughout the months of April and May give the facility the best advantage for bermudagrass recovery in June and July. Starting the TRANSITION process early leads to it being completed earlier, which results in a healthier stand of bermudagrass by October. There are several agronomic decisions necessary to have a successful TRANSITION.... and... making all the right decisions does not guarantee success. One of the more important, beneficial decisions, is to lower the height of cut (HOC) on the ryegrass. I understand this causes 'heart-burn' for some golfers, but it is a vital step in the TRANSITION process. Lowering the HOC reduces the ryegrass turf canopy that is covering the underlying

bermudagrass. Reducing the HOC shifts the competitive advantage for sunlight, water, and nutrients to the benefit of the bermudagrass. During the months of May and June, the temperatures start getting warmer during the day which triggers the bermudagrass to 'wake-up.' However, the low nighttime temperatures and low humidity, slow the growth of the waking bermudagrass. Lowering the HOC, along with other agronomic practices to remove the ryegrass, put the golf courses in the best state of preparation. When Mother Nature brings summer monsoons, high humidity, and warm nighttime temperatures above 85 degrees, the uninhibited bermudagrass begins to grow at a rapid pace and starts to fill-in. As I mentioned earlier, Mother Nature always has the final say. At this point, I am happy with where the golf courses are at in the TRANSITION process. There are areas that are better than prior years and some areas that are not as good, which is typical. As we move into July, things will continue to improve dramatically in overall playing conditions. If rainfall is typical for July and August we should have a particularly good stand of bermudagrass by the end of summer to Overseed into.

**Next week: LET'S TALK "WATER "so TUNE IN!**

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