



Course Superintendents Report June 2010

Greens

Greens height of cut will remain at 4mm. Soil tests revealed a build up of Sodium (Na) within the soil profile which is consistent with the type of water used to irrigate the course. This build up of Sodium (Na) is retarding the uptake of Potassium (K) to the plant thus affecting the soil structure which is producing a softer surface. An organic acid product will be used to flush the Sodium (Na) from the soil profile and help unlock tied up nutrients such as Calcium (Ca), Magnesium (Mg) and Phosphorus (P). With the addition of Potassium (K) and Silicon (Si) to the soil profile, the profile over time should regain a more complete structure enabling us to produce a firmer surface. Soil penetrants in conjunction with verti-draining will still be applied to assist with the movement of excess moisture in the soil profile.

Plugging of couch from the 5th and 14th greens has been completed. More plugging may occur on the 14th in future due to the couch in the green receding back into the soil profile as temperatures fell. Groundstaff are pretty confident all couch was removed from the 5th green as this was the first green to be tackled.

Turf on the 12th and 13th greens has thinned due to a combination of the environment they reside in and the *Poa* program. The *Poa* program will cease on these two greens until the spring to enable a denser coverage of turf to be produced. A fertiliser product to assist turf in shaded areas is being used on these two greens as well as the 7th green.

Aprons

Replacement of couch infested sections of aprons has begun, with areas on the 2nd and 14th completed. Groundstaff are trying to keep golfer traffic off such areas as the profile has been removed and replaced with sand thus causing the areas to be soft until the turf has established. We are finding a fair percentage of golfers not adhering to instructions to keep off these areas, which is hindering the surface from retaining its smoothness. The outcome will be an uneven surface which will require heavy topdressing over the coming months. Sections of aprons next on the list to be replaced include the 5th, 6th, 15th & 18th.

Couch Greens Surrounds

Fencing off of heavy traffic areas is being conducted through winter to give such areas a rest and preserve the cover of grass for a longer period. *Poa* that is still hanging around is being removed by hand to offset the problem of tracking chemicals onto the greens surface.

Tees

Certain tees (e.g. 1st, 2nd, 10th, 11th, 14th) are starting to show the usual winter time wear and tear. The proposed new social play tees will help to offset some of this traffic. A good example is the mens 5th tee which is handling the traffic better since the new social tee was built. The play on the tee has been reduced by only two days a week and we are seeing good results from this reduction in play.

Path entries and exits on tees will continue to be roped off during wet weather. The exit at the 16th tee is not handling the water run-off from the path and drainage will need to be installed over the summer to reduce the build up of moisture in the soil profile. The 5th tee carry is also a problem area for water retention. Drainage will need to be installed across this area as well as raising the levels of the lowest section in the area. With the adjacent billabong at its highest level, it matches the level of the ground in the lowest section thus the water table in the soil is equivalent therefore excess water has nowhere to go.

Fairways & Primary Rough

The soil penetrent program is continuing with good results in most areas. Wet areas have arisen and are being treated with extra applications of the soil penetrent, are being roped off and G.U.R.'d to preserve such areas for as long as we can. The soil in the wet area on the 12th fairway was loaded with moisture heading into the winter period due to a irrigation malfunction which caused sprinkler heads to run over a twelve hour period overnight.

Worm castings have been treated and will be treated again on a needs to basis. Overall the surface of the fairways and primary rough is continuing to hold up to the rigours of general play and winter. Groundstaff is dealing with debris and divots by using the tractor mounted blower when conditions suit.

The course has received an extra 161mm of rainfall compared to this time last year.

Paths

Loose bricks on the asphalt paths are continuing to be fixed. Potholes are to be repaired on the non asphalted pathways.

Water

The club has used 101 Megalitres of its allocation thus far for 2010. The increase since the last meeting is due to the filling of irrigation storages. Approximately 5 – 10 Megalitres will be required to finish the filling of the storages.

Mat Poultney
Course Superintendent