

February 6, 2025

Golf Course News From the Superintendent

The weather is so important when it comes to the conditions out on the golf course and at this time of year those important factors are temperature and sunlight. Our warm season



Bermuda grass needs these two key components to support active plant growth. So, when you look at this past January it was the coldest in fifteen years and that has a huge impact on the turf. When nighttime temperatures get below 65 degrees growth slows down and when temperatures dip into the low 40's growth stops as the plant becomes dormant. Fast forward a week and this February is on track to be the warmest in eight years with temperatures 8 to 11 degrees warmer than average. Cold weather equals slow growth and fast greens, warm weather increases growth and slows greens speeds. This makes for a shift in our maintenance practices just because of temperature. With warmer weather and an actively growing plant we can be more aggressive with our maintenance to try and provide a consistent playing surface, this unfortunately can't happen overnight. So, when there is a big shift in weather you should anticipate a change in playing conditions. To maintain greens speeds we turn the groomers on the

walking greens mowers to condition and remove more leaf tissue during our daily mowing, we also roll on select days during the week to speed them up. During our afternoon maintenance days we will lightly verti cut and top dress them to also increase speed and trueness.



Groomers were turned on for this morning's cut on greens and they were also rolled; we have also scheduled to verti cut and topdress during next Mondays afternoon maintenance day. We also take advantage of this warmer weather

to grow grass in the fairways and rough and to aid in this growth we will also be fertilizing the whole golf course during next week's maintenance day. This growth on tees, fairways and rough is very important in the management of traffic and the recovery of divots. This is why our afternoon closures become so important during the winter so that we can make adjustments to our practices to provide consistent conditions no matter what the weather is.