

Greens Report April Course Superintendent - Cameron Dunn

Rainfall

- 424mm in the past 6 weeks (17 inches in old terms). It's a staggering amount considering we only had 300mm throughout 6 months of spring/summer.

Greens

- Autumn greens renovations successfully completed on 23/3 in amongst some patchy rain making the task more difficult, however my staff did a great job to complete the works in tough conditions.
- All greens were hollow cored with ½ inch tines, greens cleaned, amendments applied and greens topdressed and rubbed in. This allows much needed gas exchange and also allows us a chance to physically remove thatch material built up in soil over the summer.
- All greens edges applied with Tupersan, a selective herbicide that controls couch/kikuyu encroachment onto bentgrass greens. You will notice a yellow tinge around greens where the tupersan has been effective and new bent growth is continuing nicely where the couch/kikuyu was previously growing.

Managing the creep of these two grasses is imperative to the long term health of the greens and whilst it may look unsightly seeing stunted growth along edge of green, it is for the long term benefit of the greens. It had been many years since this task had been completed (partially due to the lack of product available in Australia) so there was a lot of areas that needed to be targeted.

- Continuing to see great recovery of greens surfaces after a very long wet period through march/april.
- 5th green is back to full coverage and is back in play.

- 12th green became extremely waterlogged due to extensive rain over the past 6 weeks and it has been identified that new subsurface drainage needs to be installed to the green to improve playability of the green. It has been a problem green during prolonged wet weather for many years now and the existing drainage is inadequate. Plans are in place to construct a new drainage system ASAP.
- Preventive fungicide applied in mid-April to all greens.
- Granular NPK fertiliser with high K applied to provide a potassium boost and harden the plant coming into winter. This is a slow release fertiliser that will last 8-10 weeks.
- Foliar NPK fertiliser applied to all greens in conjunction with kelp extract to assist in new root growth.

Tees

- Still seeing solid growth after recent rain despite cooler day temperatures so we are continuing to mow tees twice per week.
- Liquid fertiliser application applied to tee's to provide growth and colour.
- 4th and 18th tees seeded and topdressed. These areas are very highly shaded areas so see slower recovery and slower growth in general. A rye/fescue mix was added as they are more shade tolerant types of grass. A plan is being established for reconstruction of 4th tee area.
- Please repair divots! I have been noticing a lot of unrepaired divots on our tees and that leads to longer recovery times and overall lack of turf density.

Fairways and Surrounds

- Cutting these areas twice per week where possible. Wet conditions has restricted mowing on some areas including 1st green surround, 5th fairway, 7th fairway at dip, 8th fairway at dip, 11th fairway, 14th fairway, 17th fairway. These areas have

been roped off to reduce further damage on course and will remain until conditions improve.

Bunkers

- All bunker edges trimmed and edged.
- Growth regulator and fertiliser applied to bunker edges to reduce overall growth but maintain adequate colour.
- Bunkers once again have been pumped out numerous times in the past month.
- New sand added to bunkers 5, 6, 7, 15, 17 recently with others to commence soon.

Irrigation

- Barely any watering applied through irrigation system recently. Only watering conducted was to wash in a granular fertiliser that was applied which was necessary.

General Information

- Thanks to the continued support of our volunteers on the course on Tuesdays. They include Jim, John, Sid, Les, Kenny and others. Your contributions to the golf course are invaluable and we appreciate everything you do to help the greens staff!
- New greens roller has been added to the machinery fleet and will help to provide smooth, consistent surfaces for greens going forward.
- Trench/drainage will initially be installed behind 12th green to catch any rain coming from the road and mounds behind green during wet weather periods. This will be transported to a nearby catchment area away from the green itself.
- Quote being obtained to improve drainage of 5th fairway on the eastern side of the creek.
- Plans of 12th green subsurface drainage being prepared.
- 18th tee bark area to be re-mulched.
- 1st tee garden to be cleaned and mulched.
- 9th and 10th tee gardens to be mulched.