

Course Consulting Service
ON-SITE VISIT REPORT



**Bella Vista Village
Bella Vista, AR**

USGA Course Consulting Service Report Addendum

September 9, 2016

United States Golf Association

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USGA Green Section Mission: The USGA Green Section develops and disseminates sustainable management practices that produce better playing conditions for better golf.

This is an addendum to the report filed after the August 15, 2016 USGA Course Consulting Service visit.

BENTGRASS CULTIVATION STRATEGIES ON THE HIGHLANDS COURSE

Observations

1. Rapid internal drainage is one of the keys to successful management of creeping bentgrass putting greens in the summer months in the transition zone. The optimum soil temperature for creeping bentgrass is 55 – 65 degrees F and when soil temperatures reach the mid-80's consistently, significant root die-back is expected. Dead roots plug up pore space in the upper rootzone. This hinders the flow of oxygen and water into the root zone. It is not uncommon to see the top one to two inches of the rootzone saturated with water and oxygen deprived.
2. Cultivation is helpful in maintaining the free flow of oxygen and water into the rootzone, particularly during the summer. Golf course superintendents have numerous tools at their disposal including core aeration, deep tine aeration and "drill and fill" aeration. "Drill and fill" refers to a process where a machine with large drill bits is used to create six to eight inch deep holes. The drill and fill machine then deposits sand directly into the holes.

Recommendations

1. Schedule deep tine and "drill and fill" aeration. Both of these procedures are recommended for the Highlands Course putting greens because they are a valuable life support tool. Given the expectations of the members and the challenge of growing a cool season turfgrass (creeping bentgrass) in weather conditions outside its optimum temperature range, any maintenance practice that favors the health of the plants and can contribute to a successful summer with little to no thinning or turf loss is a good idea.

CONCLUSION

Thank you for your support of the Course Consulting Service. Please do not hesitate to call my office should you have any questions concerning this report, the research efforts of the USGA, or any other matter regarding the maintenance of your course.

Sincerely,



Chris Hartwiger
USGA Green Section, Director, Course Consulting Service