



Connecticut Clippings

Volume 37, No. 2

May, 2003

The Loss Of An Old Friend Canton Looses A Gem

Have I got a real estate deal for you. A "Cozy New England homestead nestled in the foothills of the Berkshires. An ideal home for the sportsman, naturalist and country gentleman. A gushing brook stocked with glistening trout empties into the crystal waters of Cherry Pond, which forms the lower boundary" of the property, which includes a fourteen room colonial style farmhouse, a barn with grain storage bins, and chicken coops and hog pens. "Meadows and cultivated fields stretch away to the eastward and there is soil suitable for the profitable growth of all crops, tobacco, corn, potatoes, buckwheat, clover and such crops that have been grown with unusual success". These are just a few of the many highlighted features of this two hundred sixty acre estate in Canton, Connecticut, as advertised in 1918.

The description of the property when it was sold for the last time in the twentieth century gave no hint of how this piece of land, which eventually found itself bordered by route 44, would establish itself as a western Connecticut landmark into the twenty first. That listing attracted one James E.B. Lowell to the property and in 1931 he and his son James built a golf course on those meadows and cultivated fields. For all of the ensuing years it has stayed in the Lowell family, until this week.

Canton Golf Course, a nook and cranny filled nine hole set of links that

charmed the local tee to green set for more than seven decades, and was not just a business to Walter Lowell and his family, but home as well, will not open this season, or ever again. Walter and his family this week closed on a deal to sell the property to a local developer who plans to have the first businesses in the new Shoppes at Farmington Valley up and running by Christmas. Walter and his family will now move out of that "Cozy New England homestead", still standing from the days of the original listing, and begin the process of golf withdrawal. "We're hoping to be able to do some travelling", says Walter, well known not just for his decades as a respected Connecticut Section PGA pro, but for the millions of home made, second to none, caramels he's cooked up over the years. "We'll do things we've thought about, but can't do when you have a business that's open seven days a week."

If anyone deserves to take a breather it's Walter Lowell and his wife, Phyllis, who, along with his brothers and their daughter and son in law, made Canton Golf Course a true family business. The landscape along route 44 in Canton will change drastically now. Gone will be one of the most fascinating golf holes in New England, the sixth at Canton, where the second shot lands on an elevated green, blind to the golfer, who didn't know until he climbed the hill where the flight of his ball finished. The last time I made that climb my ball was six inches from the hole. And the seventh, with another green almost blind from the tee, a

sharp right turn past a row of trees on the right, where it sits sinisterly guarded by a pond. Every hole, from the first tee tucked behind the old red barn, to the tree guarded ninth green, straight downhill from a tee a hundred and forty yards up and away, it's a golf course who's every little turn, every tiny nuance, will remain vivid in the mind's eye.

Thanks for all the memories and great golf Walter and Phyllis and family. You didn't just close a business this week, or just another golf course. This week we said farewell to a wonderful old friend.

With a comment from the sports world, I'm Scott Gray. (WTIC AM NewsTalk 1080)

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Jud W. Smith, President

A CHANGE OF SEASONS

A reporter called me the other day and asked a few questions for an upcoming newsletter. The main one went something like this... "What is the biggest thing golfers will notice this spring, coming out of a winter like this past?" The possible answers are numerous, you know, disease, desiccation, suffocation, ice damage, etc. But

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Bob Chalifour, Newsletter Editor

The President's Message

the answer I gave was this... "The biggest thing golfers will notice is the length of time between their last round of golf in the fall and the first round in the spring," (providing they didn't head South for the winter of winters). What a difference a year makes!

Do you remember last winter? You really didn't have to close the course, wet areas were non-existent, irrigation systems were charged earlier than one could recollect and talk of drought restrictions were in the air.

This past winter was one of those old time New England ones. The kind we used to have much more frequently than we do now. Snow for Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Valentines Day, Presidents Day, Washington's Birthday, St. Patrick's Day... you get the point. Let's not forget snow in April and could it possibly be.... a big one in May???? If you got things sprayed before the white stuff flew, you were lucky. Everything top-dressed??? Well almost everything.

Winter is over; spring is here or rather almost here. April has been like an engine that is just not quite turning over. The chill in the spring is not like the chill in the fall, especially after the winter of '03!! Enough already, send a little heat, operative word is a little! How about a gentle, smooth, transitional spring/summer sequence?

It won't be long before we will wish for the sn...,well, it might take a little longer to wish for the stuff this summer. I hope we get the irrigation breaks fixed before things get toasty.. Speaking of

which, how did your irrigation systems fare this winter?

Okay, enough about the weather.... Thank you in advance to all who are hosting meetings this year: Kevin Bengtson, John Ruzsbatzky, CGCS John Gallagher III, Paul Sabino, Greg Stent, Kevin D'Amico, CGCS John Motycka and Kim Heyl.

It also should be noted that Peter Pierson, Kevin Balocca and myself are working with the DEP, DPH, DPUC, OPM and OEM and other state branches on the Connecticut Drought Preparedness and Response Plan. We have gotten additional assistance, support and input from Met/CAGCS members Glenn Perry, Tony Girardi and Scott Niven. There was a round table discussion organized by the Irrigation Association chaired by Glenn Moore.

This was a very informative and effective meeting. Representatives from various industries were there, lining up on the same side of the ball so to speak, addressing water usage concerns and drought preparedness. As information becomes available we will provide it to you. The various branches of the State Government involved with these issues have been very helpful and cooperative with us. We look forward to continued support.

At this point, I'll close, hope you all are well, I believe we're on the upside of a weather pattern and as Frank Sinatra once said..."the best is yet to come and babe won't it be fine"...

Peace,

Jud

Almost I'm ^ Ready

by Bob Chalifour

What a winter - serious damage to many golf greens throughout the state and region. Mostly Poa - yet still devastating to those affected. With diligent care you will bring those greens back. Farther north they deal with this on a fairly regular basis. You know the routine to bring those greens back into better condition than ever, I don't need to repeat it here. (see related article)

Like most golfers, I use that term loosely, I am ready to hit the links. My new golf bag, won at last years CAGCS Scholarship and Research Tournament at Shennecossett GC is looking good. Loaded with those old sort of reliable clubs.

Last year I noticed numerous clubs providing sun screen for golfers use. With the number of skin cancers being treated this is a good idea. Now along comes West Nile Virus and the dreaded mosquito that carries it.

We along with other outdoor enthusiasts not only have to watch out for sun damage, but now also mosquitos (see related article) looking for a free lunch. So here I am ready to go - golf bag, clubs, sunscreen, soft spikes, hat, neutral colored clothing and insect repellent. Could someone please find me a golf ball so that I can tee off? Oops, almost forgot, sunglasses that allow me to see my golf ball in 15 feet of water. Just what I needed. Have a great season you deserve it.



Pictured left: John Ruzsbatzky, CGCS, with Joellen Zeh from Audubon International, speaker at the March 25, 2003 meeting.

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Soil Salts Only Affect Coastal Regions... True or False?

Colleen Tocci, Aquatrols

False!

Salt related problems in turf have been a factor for some time in many parts of the country. They are, however, becoming more of an occurrence in geographic areas that may not have been affected in the past. While some "salts" are essential nutrients to plants, high levels of salts can become detrimental to plant growth. When evaporation is greater than rainfall or irrigation amounts, salt levels build up in the soil. Salts also build up in soils because of the use of poor drainage, a high water table or poor quality water. Poor water quality can result from natural salts in wells, use of effluent water or salt water intrusion.

Nationwide water conservation efforts have increased the need for golf courses to turn to non-potable water for irrigation - particularly wastewater (effluent, recycled or grey water). Increased use of effluent water sources has resulted in a greater potential

for salt management problems - presenting a new challenge for many turf managers.

What Should I Look For?

There are three types of salt affected soils. They are saline, sodic and saline-sodic soils. A saline soil has a high enough level of soluble salts to affect plant growth. Typically you will see a white crusty appearance at the surface of the soil, a burned leaf or stunted growth of grass. These symptoms, however, are not always visible. In this soil type, the salts attract water, making less water available to the plant causing salt induced plant water stress (physiological drought). Shoot and plant tissue damage may occur as well as plant nutrient deficiencies.

Sodic soils are high in exchangeable sodium and appear hard and lumpy when they are dry. Water infiltration, especially in finer textured soils, is usually poor. In addition, pH levels are usually high in these soils and plant nutrition imbalances may occur. Poor soil penetration can result which inhibits water movement through the soil.

The third type of salt affected soil is saline-sodic. As noted by the name,

these soils exhibit a high level of salt and exchangeable sodium. This is a frequent condition seen in turfgrass management. Soils of this type may physically appear satisfactory but plant growth may be inhibited. The problems manifest themselves in this soil type in the same way as saline soil - especially in the reduction of water available to the plant. Saline-Sodic soils suffer all the symptoms of both conditions above and are the hardest to manage. Due to poor water penetration caused by sodium, the ability to leach and manage the high soluble salts is severely reduced. Salt levels can build up rapidly in these soils even if water quality is not extreme.

What Can I do?

As there are different types of salt affected soils, there are different ways to treat them. Saline soils require leaching of the excess salts. Historically, this has been achieved with additional irrigation to "flush the salts away." By applying large volumes of water and allowing it to drain through the soil, you may be able to reduce the level of salts. As stated earlier, water conservation is a key element in turfgrass management today, reducing the desirability of this option. However, if this tactic is

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employed, the use of an effective soil penetrant will help the applied water to penetrate and leach the salts below the rootzone. In addition, fertilization programs may be modified to correct nutritional imbalances.

In both Sodic and Saline-Sodic soils, the sodium must be addressed aggressively. Sodium easily attaches itself to the soil particles, negatively affecting soil structure. This damage to soil structure reduces water penetration, percolation and drainage. Soluble salts start to build in the rootzone and the turf becomes stressed.

The only way to displace the sodium and rebuild soil structure is to increase the calcium in the rootzone. When soluble calcium is available in the rootzone, the calcium can displace the sodium on the soil particle. The sodium, along with other salts, can then be leached away with a leaching program.

Typical calcium programs include gypsum applications if pH's are high, and lime applications if pH's are low (below 6). Recently, injectable and sprayable grades of these products have been introduced into the market to help in the application of these products. While these products are

"tried and true," they are slow to solubilize calcium into the system. Consequently, the effect of the calcium on modifying the soil structure is slow. Using a product that improves the solubility of calcium can enhance its availability in the soil, maximizing the displacement of sodium that has built up. The calcium will help to rebuild the soil structure while the sodium and other displaced salts are leached away from the rootzone.

While high levels of salts in soils may not totally prevent you from growing turfgrass, you will need to modify your turfgrass management techniques. You must find techniques which will allow you to move water through the soil and release the "excess salts" from the rootzone.

Dr. Howland was the only emergency Doctor in the emergency room at the time. The first patient suffered a massive heart attack, while the second suffered cranial bleeding which caused the patient to go into shock after a blood build-up placed added pressure on the brain.

Emergency Medicine Director Dr. Stephan M. Becker as reported in the Taunton Gazette stated. "In my 17 years here, I've never witnessed something like this, where you have such critical emergencies occur simultaneously".

Both patients survived and have been released from the hospital. Dr. Howland a CAGCS Scholarship Recipient, is the son of member Matt Howland

.....

Of Special Note

Dr. Shawn A. Howland, while working in the emergency room at Morton Hospital and Medical Center in Taunton, Massachusetts is credited with saving the lives of two patients. Two patients suffering life-threatening medical emergencies simultaneously is very unusual.



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Congratulations

To Nancy & Mike Marino on the birth of their son Kyle. He was born Christmas Eve and weighed a healthy 8lbs.

Mike Moran on his promotion to Golf Course Superintendent at Yale GC

Matt and Joanne Gomez on the birth of their son Gregory

Michael Wallace, CGCS formerly at Fairview Farm GC is now at Simsbury Farms GC

Drew Cummins formerly at CC of Avon is now at Red Tail GC, Devens, MA

Condolences

John Wynne on the passing of his father.

Walter Lowell and family on the passing of his brother James Lowell.

Correction

The author of "How Do You Live Your Dash", Linda Ellis, was inadvertently omitted from the poem which was published in our November/December 2002 issue.

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GOVT- RELATIONS

To receive a report of the Advisory Committee on Potential Best Management Practices for Golf Course Water go to the following Website www.ctiwr.uconn.edu for the Connecticut Institute of Water Resources.

Of Special Mention

Golfdom, a premiere golf magazine distributed to our industry has recent articles about CAGCS members.

March -Featured Donald Beck, Superintendent Fishers Island Club

April - Featured Walter and Phyllis Lowell, and Dana and Heather Garvin.

Thank you Scott Gray WTIC AM Newstalk 1080 for permission to print your commentary.

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JOE TROSKY
SALES REPRESENTATIVE

CAGCS 2003 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

| | | |
|------------------|--|---|
| May 6 | Indian Hill Country Club Best Ball of Twosome Shamble - 40% hdcp | Kevin Bengtson Superintendent |
| *May 27 | Race Brook Country Club Low Gross/Low Net Blind Partners 1 st round of CAGCS Championship (1 st round Two-Man Team Championship) | John Gallagher, III Superintendent |
| *June 23 | Country Club of Farmington Low Gross/Low Net by Flight 2 nd round of CAGCS Championship (leaders will be paired together) | John Ruzsbatzky, CGCS Superintendent |
| July 14 | The Farms Country Club <i>CAGCS Invitational</i> Best Ball of foursome - 80% hdcp | Paul Sabino Superintendent |
| **August 5 | Westwoods Golf Course ABCD Mixer, Best Ball of Four & Hotball - 80% hdcp Superintendent Committee will make foursomes. | Kevin D'Amico, CGCS |
| September 6 | Lake Compounce <i>CAGCS Family Day</i> | |
| **September 16 | Skungamaug River Golf Club <i>Superintendent/Assistant Championship</i> Best ball of Twosome - 90% hdcp President's Cup/McLaughlin Trophy | John Motycka Superintendent |
| October 14 | Wampanoag Country Club <i>S & R Tournament</i> Scramble | Greg Stent Superintendent |
| November 5 or 12 | Fenwick Golf Club <i>Annual Meeting</i> 9 hole Scramble ABCD | Kimberly Heyl Superintendent |

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MOSQUITO FACT SHEET

How many species of mosquitoes are there?

There are currently 48 species identified in Connecticut, 150 in North America and over 3000 species worldwide.

Do all mosquitoes bite humans?

No. Of the 48 species in Connecticut, less than half are considered pest species to humans and livestock.

Why do mosquitoes bite humans?

Mosquitoes do not actually "bite" humans; they "feed" on them. Female mosquitoes require protein to produce their eggs and obtain this protein from the blood of humans and other animals.

Do male and female mosquitoes both feed on humans?

No. Since male mosquitoes do not lay eggs, they do not require protein. Only the female mosquito requires a source of protein to produce her eggs.

Where do mosquitoes breed?

A mosquito's lifecycle has four stages – egg, larva, pupa, and adult. Mosquitoes need water to breed since all mosquitoes spend their larval and pupal stages in water. Therefore, mosquitoes can always be found around water.

This is why it is important to prevent stagnant water from standing around



your home and apply a larvicide to areas where stagnant water cannot be removed.

How long do mosquitoes live?

Most adult mosquitoes wind up as

food for birds, dragonflies, or spiders. Others succumb to the effects of wind, rain, and drought. Those that don't may persist for as long as 2-3 months and adults that hibernate can live as long 6-8 months.

Where do mosquitoes go during the winter?

Mosquitoes are cold-blooded creatures and do not generally bite in temperatures below 50F. In Connecticut, some adult mosquitoes become inactive with the onset of cold weather and enter into hibernation before the first frost. Other mosquitoes die in the fall but have winter-hardy eggs, which hibernate as embryos.

How do mosquitoes spread disease?

Only in the last century has it been known that mosquitoes are capable of spreading disease. The diseases are often viruses that are picked up by the mosquito when it feeds on an infected host. When the mosquito then feeds on another host, it can then spread the virus.

What type of diseases can mosquitoes carry?

Stephen A. Roberts
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Mosquitoes are known to have carried diseases such as malaria, yellow fever, dog heartworm, and viral encephalitis. Mosquitoes do not transmit AIDS.

How can mosquitoes be controlled?

Mosquitoes around the home can be reduced significantly by minimizing the amount of standing water available for mosquito breeding. Residents are urged to reduce standing water around the home in a variety of ways. Source reduction activities include:

*Dispose of tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots or similar water-holding containers that have accumulated on your property.

*Empty standing water from used or discarded tires that may have accumulated on your property (e.g. tire swings).

*Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers that are left out of doors.

*Clean clogged roof gutters on an annual basis, particularly if the leaves from surrounding trees have a tendency to plug up the drains.

*Turn over plastic wading pools when not in use.

*Turn over wheelbarrows and do not allow water to stagnate in birdbaths. Change water in birdbaths and wading pools on a weekly basis.

*Aerate ornamental pools or stock them with fish.

*Clean and chlorinate swimming pools that are not being used. Be aware that mosquitoes may even breed in the water that collects on swimming pool covers.

Why are mosquitoes able to survive pesticide spraying?

Pesticides such as resmethrin are designed to kill adult mosquitoes within 5-30 minutes of contact. Contact is more reliably achieved after sunset and overnight when most mosquitoes are airborne. When contact is made, insecticides such as resmethrin are approximately 90% effective so some mosquitoes do survive spraying. It is not designed to kill mosquito larvae so non-adult mosquitoes will not be affected and new hatches of adults may need to be addressed.

How can I protect myself from mosquito-borne diseases?

The best way is to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes. This can be accomplished using personal protection while outdoors when mosquitoes are present. Examples of such protective measures are:

*Wear shoes, socks, long pants, and a long-sleeved shirt when outdoors for long periods of time, or when mosquitoes are most active.

*Use mosquito netting when sleeping outdoors or in an unscreened structure and to protect small babies when outdoors.

*Consider the use of mosquito repellent, according to directions, when it is necessary to be outdoors.

Where can I go for more information?

*DEP's Mosquito Information Line at (860) 424-4184 (Recorded Message)

*DEP's Mosquito Management Program at (860) 642-7239

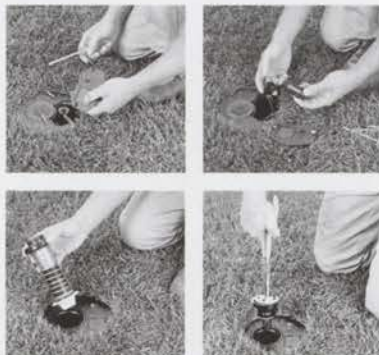


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Lamb or Lion?

By David Oatis, Director, and Jim Skorulski and Jim Baird, Agronomists

Updated 4-4-03

The warmer temperatures and rain throughout the Region continues to melt remaining snow, remove ground frost, stimulate new growth, and make golfers and maintenance crews itchy to get back out on the golf course. Reports are that many golf courses remain too wet as snow and frost leaves the ground. Resist the temptation to open the greens if they are too wet or frost remains, as this will cause significant damage to turf roots and the soil. Most golf courses in the Northeast Region will be opening late this spring.

Winter Injury

The extent of winter freeze injury also becomes evident as the snow recedes. The damage appears sporadic through Canada, the southern New England region, western New York, and even in the New York City metropolitan area. One of the most frustrating aspects of winter freeze injury is the inconsistency in which it occurs. One golf course can experience severe injury, while another just down the road will not. This is not uncommon, and is understandably a difficult concept to convey to golfers. Its occurrence is dependent

on specific weather events that create thick ice layers, multiple freeze-thaw cycles, or subject the turf to rapidly dropping temperatures. Weather conditions can vary considerably from golf course to golf course depending on location, elevation, and microenvironments. Grass species also vary, and those managing annual bluegrass will always be more susceptible to this type of injury.

What has become increasingly apparent and a real surprise is that there is a substantial amount of desiccation injury on putting greens in the Northeast Region. Everyone remembers the frequent snow storms this winter, but many courses cleared off in January, and this left succulent turf exposed to cold, harsh, drying winds. If the turf on the knolls and higher areas experienced thinning while the lower areas are fine, chances are desiccation injury is your problem.

Recovery

If your golf course is damage free, consider yourself fortunate and carry on with regular spring duties. Those who have or suspect damage have a much bigger task ahead that should begin now by opening the lines of communication. Use newsletters, Web sites, meetings, the local sports page, or any means to get the word out. We also have excellent written materials that describe the damage and discuss recovery programs in detail, and we will be happy to make those available for your communication efforts. Do not make promises that can not be kept. It is always nice to hear optimistic opening dates in early spring, but back peddling on those dates as a result of a cold spring is painful.

Develop a recovery plan. Use temporary greens where damage is extensive. Closing damaged greens provides the only opportunity to complete the cultivation and seeding work that is required, and al-

lows the young plants to establish without injury from traffic. Keeping the greens open during their recovery extends the painful process long into summer, and summer performance suffers dramatically.

The details for specific recovery programs are too many to discuss here. However, feel free to call us and we will be happy to discuss various options or ideas that will make the process as rapid and painless as possible.

Finally, winter damage is a weather-related phenomena. It is usually not related to any one specific practice that was or was not implemented during the previous fall or winter. Yes, there are things that can be done to hopefully reduce the probability or severity that winter freeze damage will occur, but the damage will happen, despite your best efforts, when weather conditions are right for its occurrence. Unfortunately, unfair judgments are made on a superintendent when, in reality, there was nothing that could have been done. Instead, accept the damage for what it is and withhold any judgments until the recovery is complete!

Turf Advisory Service Subscription

Don't forget to submit your payment for a Turf Advisory Service (TAS) visit by May 15 to receive a \$300 discount off the regular cost of a half-day (\$1,500) or full-day (\$2,000) visit. Keep in mind that payment for at least one visit by May 15 ensures the same discount for subsequent visits requested throughout the 2003 season. If you would like more information on the TAS in the Northeast Region, contact us at 610-515-1660.

Northeast Region Green Section- Dave Oatis, Director doatis@usga.org, Jim Baird, Agronomist jbaire@usga.org, Jim Skorulski, Agronomist jskorulski@usga.org.

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One Step Forward— Two Steps Back

By David Oatis, Director, and Jim Skorulski and Jim Baird, Agronomists

Updated 4-23-03

Just when it looks like the annual bluegrass shows signs of new life the weather changes and back it slides. So goes the roller coaster with winter-damaged annual bluegrass on golf courses this season. Determining the extent of damage following a winter injury event is difficult. Plants suffering crown tissue damage often provide false hope until the green color from the chlorophyll fades away.

Plants also may suffer partial damage from freeze events. Roots are compromised leaving the plants susceptible to desiccation and even direct cold temperature injury. This seems to be the case at many golf courses where annual bluegrass has taken a turn for the worse in recent weeks.

Solving the Puzzle

Damage patterns observed on many greens this spring are atypical, in that turf located on sloped areas and knolls has in many instances been damaged more severely than turf located in poorly drained depressions. Annual bluegrass continues to be the most damaged turf, especially where it is growing in fall and winter shade.

Reports from the field vary widely. Some superintendents report that turf that was cleared of snow and ice, even in late winter, fared more poorly than turf in areas where the snow or ice was not removed. This is a clue that exposure to cold temperatures alone may be behind the injury. Others report that cleared areas performed better than those left covered, in which case the damage likely resulted from crown hydration injury or suffocation. Another interesting observation is that annual bluegrass survived at several locations where there were wrinkles in the green's covers. Did the wrinkle create additional air space that provided insulation to buffer against cold temperatures, or perhaps prevent suffocation?

Trying to piece the clues together is often a frustrating task that may not produce any resounding answers. Winter injury remains a very complicated issue that is controlled by weather events, grass varieties, growing environment, surface contouring and exposure, etc. Often, there are no simple answers. Multiple

forms of winter injury ranging from direct cold temperature kill and/or desiccation on more exposed areas, to crown hydration and suffocation to turf located in lower depressions can occur on the same greens. Do not lose sleep trying to develop an explanation of what may have occurred.

Recovery

Efforts are underway to cultivate, seed, and fertilize damaged areas. Fortunately, most golf courses we have visited have closed damaged greens. This is always an unpopular decision, but offers the quickest route to a successful recovery. Some seed has already begun germinating from earlier spring seeding work on covered greens, which is a good sign.

Keep the damaged areas covered to boost the soil temperatures and prevent desiccation of the young seedling turf. Irrigate the seeded areas to keep the seed and seedling plants moist. Light, frequent applications of balanced soluble fertilizers will push the young seedling plants. Light topdressing should be initiated soon after the seedlings emerge. Additional seeding work will likely be required in areas where recovery is slow. Use the least disruptive means to seed those areas so as not to damage seedling plants already in place. Mowing heights should be up, and the mowers equipped with smooth rollers.

Patience, patience, patience. It sounds like a broken record, but it is a necessity following severe damage. Yes, revenues will be down. Golfers will understandably grumble and pressures to open damaged areas will be felt. But the recovery will progress at its own weather-dependent speed. You can help push it along to an extent, but it will take time. The more patience that can be given to the spring recovery effort will pay off dividends in the summer and beyond.



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