

Rolling

Multiple times a week, staff rolls the putting greens with a dedicated roller. Rolling not only smooths and firms the putting surface but can allow us to skip mowings occasionally. Skipping a mowing on extremely hot day helps to minimize stress on the plant and leaves more leaf tissue to aid in carbohydrate production. By rolling in place of mowing, there is almost no loss in putting green performance. The roller is also used to brush sand into aeration holes while simultaneously smoothing the surface after a very disruptive process such as aeration.



Overseeding

Multiple times a year, staff overseeds many areas of the golf course. In the spring, this can be done simply to recover from winter damage while in the growing season, overseeding is done at appropriate times to increase more ideal varieties. A fair amount of time is put into the research of the best seed for each location. Seed types and varieties are constantly evolving to grow better in challenging environments and we consciously chose the best seed to help combat our biggest issues (winter hardiness, traffic, shade tolerance, etc.).



Plant Growth Regulators & Growing Degree Days

All areas of the golf course are regularly treated with plant growth regulators (PGR's) with the exception of the rough. PGR's regulate or slow down the vertical growth of plants. If the plant isn't putting energy into growing vertically, it can put more energy into establishing a healthy root system. This conservation and reallocation of energy allows the plant to naturally fight through stressful conditions (heat, drought, traffic, disease, etc.) on its own and requires less chemical input. The other benefit to less vertical growth is that there is less mowing required which conserves man hours as well as fossil fuels and also limits the amount of clippings that need to be blown - also conserving resources. PGR applications are based on growing degree days (GDD) rather than calendar days. Weather fluctuations play a critical role in plant growth; plants grow more on warm days than cool days. GDD is used to estimate the growth of plants and is figured by subtracting 32° from the mean daily temperature; the resulting number is the number of GDD. For example, if the high temperature one day is 75° and the low is 50°, the mean temperature is 62.5°, subtract 32° then the GDD equals 30.5°. If the high and low temperatures were instead 95° and 60° respectively, then the GDD would equal 45.5°. We aim to reapply PGR's every 200-220 GDD and during the summer, the GDD could be reached in 8 days instead of 14. By reapplying based on a GDD model rather than defaulting to every two weeks, we prevent unwanted growth surges and achieve more consistent plant growth.

