

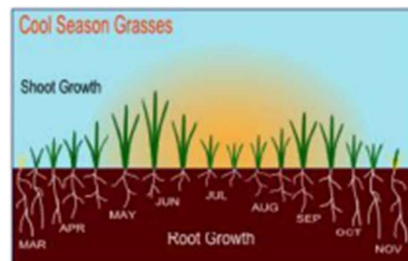
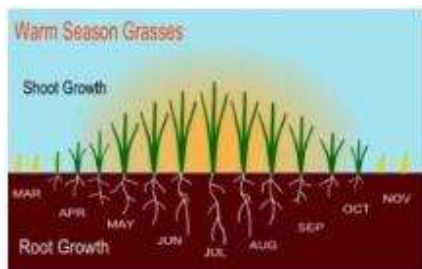
EC meeting.

Friday 11th September

Please find the following report on the issues covered during this Executive Meeting

State of the course:

It has been a difficult summer, particularly on our Bentgrass areas. Bentgrass, as opposed to Bermudagrass, is a species not adapted to heat. As you can see in the graph, growth is limited during June, July and August, and this limitation is not only on shoot growth, but more dramatic on root. This is why we do prepare during maintenance week the root system, aerifying to provide a friendly media to roots. Many other practices are also orientated to keep the grass alive during this unfavorable period.



On the other hand, fairways and roughs are getting better and better as we keep aerifying and adding sand every year. The areas at 14, 15, 17... that were patchy consequence of silt deposition after floods were sodded and drainage was also added.

Covid

This pandemic has changed our maintenance annual procedure. From march to May maintenance were reduced to minimum to protect our staff. That lead to a period where we had to catch up particularly with thatch control. We were not particularly successful explaining that this come back to the standards would take some time.

Also, in other to avoid further closure of the course after covid lockdown, maintenance week of May was advanced and the one in July was cancelled. This has certainly affected on the scope of Bentgrass summer decay.

Goosegrass in collars and tees

We have seen a buildup in the amount of this weed. It is easily controlled using premergence herbicide (control germination) and more difficult using post emergence (to control mature plants). Unfortunately, both strategies actually affect Bentgrass so the more aggressive we are to control the weed the more likely we end up damaging our grass. This damage is more difficult to foresee since affects the roots more than the shoots, and the consequences will show up later in the middle of the summer.



Next season we will use preemergence approach even on tees, but we should be aware that this will block the chance to use seeds on tees for divot recovery. Also, the grass may be more susceptible to summer decay.

Bermuda encroachment

This is our weakest issue in the course and there is no way out right now. Bermudagrass and Bentgrass have two distinctive growing seasons. These is one of the reasons why they tent to invade each other. This year that Bentgrass is weaker, Bermudagrass invasion goes faster. Our strategy relays on slowing this process that will ultimately be bound to remove the contaminated grass, clean the soil, and resod. We are talking about 20.000 sqmt, which means it will have to be subcontracted. Any herbicide to be used will affect Bentgrass.

When that happens, we will reconsider the species to be used because there are some options.



Salinity

I always like to remind every year that we are dealing with high salinity reclaim water. This is particularly true on tees where a secondary source is not an option today.

Green speed

RCG Las Brisas has always boasted about their fast and true greens. Our standard goes from 10 to 11 depending on the time of the year, and always considering that this goal will not compromise the green health. The green speed cannot be this hi every day. Practices like topdressing, brooming, verticutting, mini aerification, etc will present slow greens for some time, even if these practices are meant to provide long term speed.

In the past, according to our records, summer green speed was always in the low 10s and sometimes even closer to 9,5.

Unfortunately, we open the course in April not presenting our typical green speed and it took a while to gain those numbers. Still we were getting speed around 10 most of the time. Pressure from some members pushed me to go beyond the limits. I reacted with confidence that extra rolling, double cutting, verticutting and sand topdressing will provide some speed, but collars and outer areas in the green suffer from it. There is a lesson to learn.

Now both greens and collars are recovering, and we can look forward to future.

Collars and tees

We are recovering the weak areas using sod. Sodding too soon in august has proved to be inadequate because heat makes it difficult to keep it alive. September is more convenient for this practice.

Collars and outer rings in holes 4, 9 and 17 were repaired. Putting Green at the 1st tee also need



We also consider a priority to clean tee 1 from weeds since it is the first impression of the course. The first tee box was cleaned by hand. The next two boxes will be sodded next maintenance week.



Driving Range Putting Green

This Putting Green is not constructed following USGA specs. Even though we changed the irrigation improving coverage, the lack of good soil and drainage makes it difficult to survive. In the past we always wait to reconstruct it since the Driving Range had plans to be refurbished.

This summer it suffers from major damage. The whole green will be sodded and a zoysia ring will be used to remove the kikuyu ring. This will start this maintenance week. Soil and drainage will be repaired.



Fairways mowing pattern

Fairways mowing pattern has been an issue since grain derived from alternating lines affects playability. We discussed the options and we try to use diamond pattern like they do in Valderrama. We try it and calculated that it takes more than double time to mow the course as compared with longitudinal stripes.

Then we tried alternating longitudinal stripes to get rid of the grain but keeping some visual pattern to define the fairway. After almost a month we had to stop because against-grain passes were scalping too much.

To illustrate this issue, we compared the time dedicated in Valderrama vs Las Brisas. They mow in diamond about 5 days a week with 3-4 workers. We do it 4 days a week with 2 workers. This means they have double the dedication.



Tee 3 wall

This project is almost completed. We will plant red adelfas in the whole bank to stabilize it. I claimed that the wall should be painted in green. The neighbor offers to cover with a natural imitation of stones.



Trees and ornamental grasses

A new program for trees were produced and some tipuanas and spathodeas were planted. All these trees locations were approved by Kyle Phillips in a one by one analysis.

We also want to replace some of the old Lygeum spartium with Muhlenbergias. This are easier to maintain and do not creep without control.



Signs

We are working in a proposal to change the old sings that are located in the course as the get hit too often. The green material we used to build them is out of stock and will not be available anymore. The idea is to use the same plastic signs that were some time ago in the tees.



Driving Range refurbishment

The green committee would like to propose that the application for the permit needed to refurbish the practice area is submitted this year. The permit will not imply any approval in terms of the scope of the project. It will be the minimum, so it speeds up a process that is particularly slow these days.

The cost of this process will not be in the same year as the investment.

Edges of the lake

We are aware that further job needs to be done to retain the edges in some parts of the lake at 16th. We have already work in other areas last winter. Since it is not considered urgent, it is programmed for wintertime when the maintenance staff is not that busy.

Comments: green sand and protection on tee 8 to lake.

