May 2023 Advisory Bulletin

RECOMMENDED RENOVATION PERIOD FOR GREENS

A regular proper annual renovation is recommended for all Greens and the most suitable period has been proved to be during the warmer months when ground temperatures are highest and promoting rapid growth.

In our WPB District in the Western Cape climate statistics have proved that these conditions are most suitable in November and December. This period allows for the quickest return of your asset to earn dividends and more importantly promote healthy greens.

The WPB GreensCare standing committee recommends the program below which has been tried and tested with much success.

The proposed program will comfortably allow recovery of aggressive renovation where on an average 120 wheelbarrows of scarifying's is removed annually and also levels are addressed with up to 8mm application of top dressing on some isolated areas (15 m2). On average 5mm would be normal for recovery in example below.

From experiences noted the average "out of commission" time necessary for a thorough renovation is about 25 days.

We are endeavouring to promote good Greens in our District and regular annual renovation is one of our best tools.

We have listed below the required equipment needed for renovation work, starting with preparation of equipment to the last mowing session at 4mm before delivering the first bowl on your revitalised green.

The dates are actual applied by one of our clubs, on an annual basis, however it can most certainly be varied as required.

The program below is arranged to suit one club where the public holiday on 16th December is used annually as their MEMBERS DAY WHERE BOTH THE Greens are required on that day.

What is proposed therefore is that one green is renovated before the selected event and the other after, so that that Greens would be available for the Flag and Muter season, starting around the second week in January.

EQUIPMENT NECESSARY FOR RENOVATION

- Dumpy level instrument
- Pin Scarifier
- Horizontal rotary nylon brush
- Used mower set at 3mm to clean up after scarifying

- Merado or similar for coring or vertidraining
- Fertiliser Spreader
- Set of rails or large screeds or laser level facility.
- Moisture meter

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR A TWO GREEN CLUB

SEPTEMBER

Arrange a set of levels for each Green using the Cubitt Excel spreadsheet format. BSA require a level check at least on a bi-annual basis.

It takes about 2 hours to do a set of levels using the Cubitt Format and since so much can change during our wet winter months it is good Greens management to do your levels on annual basis for better control.

OCTOBER

Test and prepare all equipment to be used.

Arrange for soil samples to be taken for analysis. Once the analysis is completed it is recommended that Dr. Gavin Cooper be consulted for Fertiliser management.

NOVEMBER

14 November

- Close the chosen Green and irrigate in preparation for scarifying.

15 November

- Mow green at 3mm then commence scarifying in diagonal and parallel directions. After two passes of each direction, it is recommended to brush up and mow at 3mm with a mower fitted with a well-used bottom blade. Continue until the complete mat removed i.e., at least 120 wheelbarrows of scarifying's.
- A verticutter can also be used in tandem to speed process.
- Refer to the greens levels grid and use it to aggressively remove high spots by scarifying before continuing with your renovation work.

17 November

- Arrange a further 2 x diagonal scarify procedure and leave scarifying's on green. Use the Merado or other aerating procedure. Once completed use a core buster drag mat to break up cores and refill the core holes.

18 November

- Fertilise with 3:1:5 booster or equivalent and irrigate with fine spray.

19 November to 21 November

- Set out rails or other levelling method and top dress the Green

22 November to 10 December

- This is the "Passive period". Leave the grass to grow vertically to about 10 mm which should be achieved after about 19 days. Once the grass has reached that height, mow the green at 10mm height, and reduce in 2mm steps down to 4mm height over next 6 days.

15 December

- The renovated green can be recommissioned for play.

The next green can be renovated from the 17th December the Green can be closed and as per the renovated green.

The estimated cycle would be

17 December

- Close second Green and irrigate in preparation for scarifying.

18 December

- Mow green at 3mm then commence scarifying in diagonal and parallel directions. After two passes of each direction, it is recommended to brush up and mow at 3mm with a mower fitted with a well-used bottom blade. Continue until the complete mat removed i.e., at least 120 wheelbarrows of scarifying's.
- A verticutter can also be used in tandem to speed process.
- Refer to the greens levels grid and use it to aggressively remove high spots by scarifying before continuing with your renovation work.

20 December

- Arrange a further 2 x diagonal scarify procedure and leave scarifying's on green. Use the Merado or other aerating procedure. Once completed use a core buster drag mat to break up cores and refill the core holes.

21 December

- Fertilise with 3:1:5 booster or equivalent and irrigate with fine spray.

21 December to 23 December

- Set out rails or other levelling method and top dress the Green

23 December to 8 January

- This is the "Passive period". Leave the grass to grow vertically to about 10 mm which should be achieved after about 17 days. Once the grass has reached that height, mow the green at 10mm height, and reduce in 2mm steps down to 4mm height over next 6 days.

15 January

- The renovated green can be recommissioned for play.

Note that:

1. Depending on Flag/muter scheduled dates the above program can be adjusted.
2. On average closing a green for renovation, would take it out of commission for about 25 days.
3. With the example above when the first Green is completed and back in service then the other Green can be renovated.
4. Clubs with 3 Greens can start their renovations with one Green in mid-October or two greens together in November.
5. The goal however must be to arrange renovations during between mid-October and December period, and certainly not sooner.

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