



July 2026 Newsletter

Greenkeepers are reminded that the winter months are an important period for greens' maintenance and making preparations for the next season.

During winter growth slows right down due to the colder conditions, but does not come to a complete stop. Reduce the number of weekly cuts, setting the mowers at a height of 4 mm or more when you cut. You can replace mowing with brushing, as this will help to prevent the build-up of thatch and thus maintain a good playing surface. Avoid mowing under too wet conditions, and make sure the mower blades are sharp because the grass is more susceptible to damage and disease in winter.

Ensure there is good drainage and aeration to avoid compaction, waterlogging, and poor conditions in the root zone.

During the winter months when it is wet and cold, move your rinks after each day's play. This will help to avoid compaction and damage to the turf grass.

Monitor conditions throughout the winter season. Weeds can grow faster than the more dormant grass and can quickly take over on a green. Hand weeding or spot treatments with the appropriate herbicide should be done to keep the weeds under control. Winter grass can be removed by hand or by using a mixture of no more than 160 ml of Lawntyl diluted with 50 litres of water.

Despite the much slower growth of turfgrass in the cold winter conditions, there may be a need for some fertilisers to make sure the grass is ready for strong growth when we get through winter. It is recommended that one litre each of GroBest (or similar substitute) and molasses mixed with 50 litres of water are applied with a backpack.

This is a good time to have a soil analysis done so that the fertilisers can be selected based on the specific needs of each green. If you are using borehole water, it is recommended that a sample is also sent for analysis. This will ensure that the contents of the water being applied to the green are taken into account.

Winter is also the best time to undertake major maintenance on your machines, as you are unlikely to need to use them as intensively as in the growing season.

Winter is also the best the time to start planning your next renovation for the upcoming season. Remember that optimum times to undertake renovations is mid-October to the end of December, when the turf grass growth is at its most vigorous. It is not recommended that renovations take place when the soil temperatures are below 18 degrees Celsius. Greens that are not renovated on a regular basis tend to deteriorate in the longer term.