



Hobbits Glen Turf Talk

August 2021

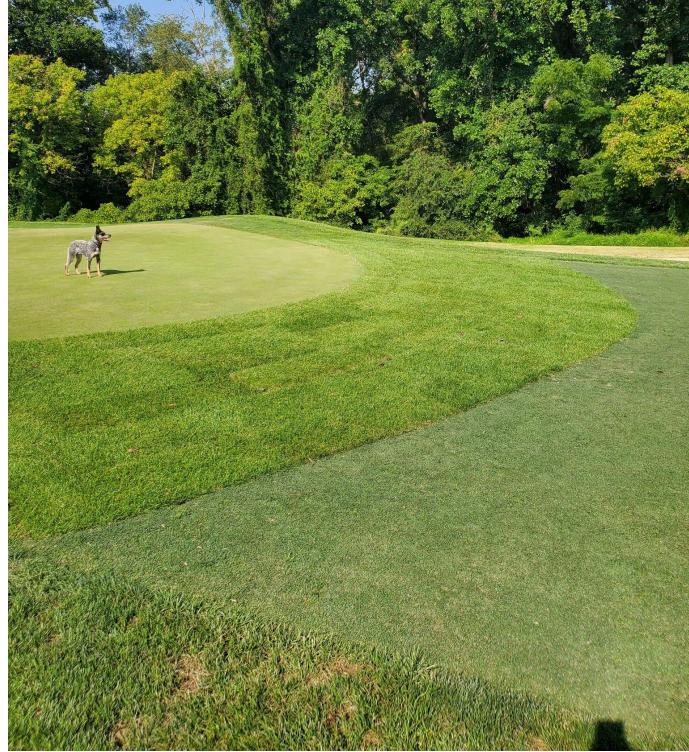
Hobbit's Glen has held up pretty well over the summer. There are a few areas that did thin out over the summer that I would like to address.

The Green on # 11 has been a struggle all year. The underlying problem is the soil on the right side of the Green. We have dealt with nematodes in early summer and those were then followed by pythium root rot, these two go hand in hand. We did solve these issues but are still having a difficult time growing roots on that side of the green. The soil test shows a big difference between the right side of the green and the left. We most recently have decided to start plugging out some of these areas transplanting the root system and have seen better results, this is a time consuming effort that we will continue to move forward with. I do know from records that when the greens were reconstructed 11 was one green that was not and I am sure the age of this green is now starting to show itself. These problems along with the green being tucked in a bowl with less sunlight and air movement are all contributing factors of the problems we are seeing.





Some other areas that have been struggling this summer are a few of the approaches. We have figured out that these areas were being over regulated with growth regulators as they are the very beginning of the greens spray and are also sprayed with the approach spray. Moving forward these areas will only be sprayed with the greens to prevent over regulation. All of these areas were resodded August 5th.



As expected we have come out of our pre emergent weed spray from April. Pre-emergent applications give us about 4 months of control so we knew end of July early August was when we would start seeing crabgrass and goosegrass emerge. Post emergent control for these weeds was applied the last week of July. As I am sure you have all seen these weeds turn white in color after the application and then die out. This application has no effect on cool season Grass but does turn warm season grass white as well. The bermuda will stay white for 10-14 days and then grow out of it.



Greens aerification will be completed on September 14th and 15th. With the amount of rain we received throughout July and the forecast for August, the greens will need to be lightly topdressed a few times over the remainder of the season. The sand dilutes the build up of organic matter, helping to maintain infiltration rates and to allow the turf to be more disease and insect resilient. Topdressing with sand also helps to smooth out imperfections and to maintain green speeds.

The fairways will be aerified using our deep tine aerifier. A solid 3/4" tine penetrates a depth of 8" or more on a 6" spacing. The action of the machine also causes fractures in the soil below. I believe the fairways are already draining better after rain events. We have also witnessed an increase in rooting, which leads to healthier plants that will be both more tolerant

of colder temperatures and more resistant to disease. We will overseed fairways again with HGT Bluegrass starting September 20th, While we will continue to push the HGT, this year we will be using a blend of HGT and Rye to get more of a full green up for fall and spring while Bermuda is in dormancy.

September is the opportune time to aerify and seed tees, approaches and roughs. Tees and approaches will be aerified, seeded and topdressed throughout the month, while not disturbing play. Rough around greens will be aerified, seeded and topdressed with compost the last week of September. The remaining 30 acres of the inner roughs will be aerified and seeded during the first half of October.

Thanks for the continued support and feedback as we continue to improve the courses!

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