



TORONTO GOLF CLUB MONTHLY REPORT

PREPARED BY COURSE SUPERINTENDENT - PETER FITZGERALD

MARCH / APRIL 2021

RAINFALL –

- Year to date 23/3/21 – 808mm
- March to 23/3/21 – 452mm

Course Overview

With 452 mm in the first 3 weeks of March, our year-to-date totals read more like our normalised (10year ave) annual rainfall. To this extent, maintenance and construction programs have been severely impacted. Low light density associated with long periods of rain have created ideal conditions for disease and insect outbreaks on greens.

The course-wide herbicide program scheduled February through to March was also a fatality of the rain. As a result, the staff have focused on fairway bare areas with the weed eradication program being postponed until the commencement of the growing season (Sept / Oct).

Several construction projects including the 9th and 18th bunkers are on hold pending drying conditions, similarly to drainage works on the 4th fairway.

Greens and tee renovations were completed this week and with a forecast break in the weather I anticipate both should recover quickly.

My team have been working in trying conditions over the past weeks to complete the new Santa Ana turf nursery between holes 2 and 4. Material was mechanically harvested from the driving range and spread on the nursery area.

Creating additional nurseries are vital to transitioning from Kikuyu fairways, tees and green surrounds to Santa Ana Couch. Currently, the course weeds (Kikuyu) cannot be eradicated without causing extreme, residual damage.

There are many strategic benefits to converting the Kikuyu to Santa Ana Couch including:

- Improved playing surfaces and presentation.
- Ability to selectively spray out weeds without damage.
- Improved drought tolerance.
- Once established...long term labour savings.

Greens

As mentioned, renovations to all greens were completed this week. Additionally, they are also recovering from a severe insect infestation with the 7th and 15th greens being re-seeded and showing daily improvement. Seasonal soil testing is carried out to ensure the correct nutrient requirements are maintained and to measure soil pathogens.

Tees

Have been coring, seeded, and top-dressing. Construction works continue on the 7th and 13th.

Fairways

Seeding, aeration and top-dressing of bare areas continue with good results on hole 10, 11 and 13. More frequent mowing is being scheduled to suppress weed seed head from spreading.

Green Surrounds / Approaches

These areas will require increased mowing frequencies when weather permits.

Construction Works – Current & Long Term

The extent of capital works to be carried out over the next few years is a mammoth but exciting task. The re-building of greens, tees, re-grassing of entire golf holes, addressing drainage issues hole by hole, is the only way to improve this golf course, and the Board have entrusted me to lead these projects.

Course Presentation

Autumn should see the Paspalum and other summer weeds go into dormancy. They will progressively become less visual, while the cooler temperatures and rain, will see an increase in the winter grass propagation. Bare areas will naturally cover over in conjunction with the fairway seeding program.

Course Traffic Management

Members, please be mindful of roped off areas which are necessary to protect wet areas, areas close to greens and promote growth to other affected areas. These areas are generally high traffic or low lying. If you see a peg down, or if you need to take it down, please assist the maintenance staff and replace it.

Volunteers

Dave Reilly deserves a special mention for his continued work with the irrigation system Along with Danny Winter for his ready assistance. Dave is getting the old system up and running so when the rain eventually stops, we have a reliable system. It also prepares the course to integrate old and new when the irrigation project commences. Work continues on the 7th and 13th cart-paths and curbs, and mulch being applied to the 1st and 18th roughs.

Other matters

Recent drainage works completed to the maintenance compound have been a complete success. Several weeks were spent digging trenches, installing pipework and drainage pits to alleviate flooding and standing water issues. The entrance road has been re-surfaced which provides mud free access for the machinery and golf carts.

Again, I extend my sincere appreciation to the terrific assistance provided by our course volunteers. They chip in and do the mundane tasks my team are unable to find the time to complete.

Great work fellas.

Members, in closing thank you for your patience while the course recovers from the many recent challenges. My team and I are working hard, in trying conditions, to deliver you an improving facility.

COURSE SUPERINTENDENT

PETER FITZGERALD

