

What's the best way to improve turf without interrupting course play?

Superintendents deal with a long – seemingly unending – list of issues that make growing turf difficult. The lengthy list of challenges include cart wear and divot repairs, as well as disease and weather-related issues. Because of these uncontrollable factors, turf varieties are constantly researched and improved, making them better equipped to handle disease stress and the impact of excessive heat and wear. While these new varieties instantly offer an improved stand of turf, most superintendents are hesitant to incorporate an improved variety because of the subsequent interruptions to course play. That is, until the concept of interseeding was introduced. Interseeding is a process by which a new, improved variety can be incorporated into an existing stand without interruption to play and without substantial increased costs.

What is interseeding with Penn bentgrass?

The interseeding process is simple: During aerification, superintendents put down one of the aggressive Penn bentgrass varieties, slowly building their seed bank. Over time, the stronger Penn bentgrasses will grow and spread to become the dominant turf on greens, fairways and tees. These dynamic varieties will even out-compete many unwanted weeds, including *Poa annua*.

What are the keys to successful interseeding?

Because soil-to-seed contact is the most crucial aspect for germination, it is recommended that interseeding occur about two or three times per growing season during the normal aerification process. In addition, some superintendents also choose to introduce seed into the turf stand during spiking, verticutting and topdressing. These are alternative times that allow additional opportunities to build up the Penn bentgrass seed bank, which will effectively compete with *Poa annua* seed in the soils.

What's the cost and how much time will it take?

The superintendents who are most successful at interseeding apply seed at a rate of 0.1 to 0.25 lbs per 1,000 square feet. Because it's merely one additional step of applying seed to an existing process, the time- and cost-constraints are minimal.

What are the benefits to using the new Penn bentgrass varieties?

Interseeding with the new Penn bentgrass varieties is an effective way for superintendents to improve their turf quality, reduce inputs and improve overall course conditions. In addition, the advanced Penn bents are more disease resistant and tolerant of extreme conditions than other bentgrass varieties, making turf management easier and less expensive.

Who else does it?

While the list of superintendents relying on interseeding to improve their turf is growing, we have case studies from six superintendents – from both private clubs and public golf courses – located in varied regions of the United States. This list includes:

Mark Kuhns, Director of Grounds
Baltusrol Golf Club: Springfield, NJ

Dave Phipps, Superintendent
Stone Creek Golf Club: Oregon City, OR

Scott Ramsay, Golf Course Superintendent
Yale University Golf Course: New Haven, CT

Bob Maibusch, Golf Course Superintendent
Hinsdale Golf Club: Clarendon Hills, IL

Sean McCue, Golf Course Superintendent
Country Club at Castle Pines: Castle Rock, CO

Kevin Ross, Director of Golf Course Management
Country Club of the Rockies: Vail, CO



PO BOX 250 Hubbard, OR 97032 USA
800-547-0255 • FAX 503-651-2351
www.tee-2-green.com • bentinfo@tee-2-green.com