

I hope your summer was less than sweltering and you are all excited about another season at PGA National Resort and Spa. The golf maintenance department has had a busy summer preparing for the upcoming season.

We held our first “Blitz the Champ” week early October to complete most of the projects we normally do to prepare for season. Some of the major projects that we completed were:

- Installed pine straw and mulch in all the beds around the golf course
- Trimmed up all the trees on the Champion course
- Installed new sand to some bunkers on #6, #18, and chipping green at the back of the Champion driving range
- Measured and adjusted for consistent depth of sand in bunkers
- Painted restrooms inside and out

During the summer we also experienced some thinning on the Champion fairways. There were several contributing factors such as nematodes (a micro-organism that feeds on plant roots), herbicidal injury due to weed control, transition from overseeding, and traffic. We have been consistently applying supplemental fertilizer to promote growth and plant density and the fairways are filling in, but a bit slower than I would like.

The Squire greens have held up great through their first summer. I have been very pleased with the condition of the Emerald Bermuda grass and green speeds have been very consistent. They’re new greens and therefore firm, but over time as the organic matter increases they will soften up and become more receptive.

We start the winter overseeding process Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> on the Haig course. The course will be closed until Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> for preparation and seeding. Golf carts will remain on the path the following week to aid in seed germination. We appreciate your cooperation as this will be standard for all the courses during the seeding process. The other golf courses are seeded on the following dates:

- Haig Course – Closed from 11-2-09 through 11-6-09
- Squire Course – Closed from 11-9-09 through 11-13-09
- Estates Course – Closed from 11-16-09 through 11-20-09
- Champion Course – Closed from 12-7-09 through 11-18-09

The Palmer Course will once again not be overseeded this winter.

I appreciate all your support this summer. Mother Nature threw us a few curve balls with the severe out break of mole crickets and nematodes. We are in full recovery mode and with your support I believe we are gearing up for a fantastic season.

In closing I also would like “Thank You All” from me and the entire Golf Maintenance Department for the outstanding membership appreciation BBQ. Elaine Solomon organized an exceptional cook out here at the maintenance shop for my staff and nobody left hungry. On your next backyard cookout, may I suggest you invite Bob Hodgson and make sure he cooks. He makes a great burger and rolls a mean hot dog.

*For Better Turf,*

John V. Andersen, CGCS  
Director of Agronomy, PGA National Resort and Spa