

Improving Irrigation in Extreme Seasons

A Case Study at Stone Creek Golf Club — December 2006

Course Overview

- Municipal public golf course
- Dave Phipps, Golf Course Superintendent
- Located in Oregon City, OR
- 18 holes
- Course Designers: Peter Jacobsen, Jim Hardy
- Built in 2000
- Received four stars – Golf Digest Best Places to Play (2006-2007)

Regional Climate and Soil Conditions

- Heavy rains throughout the winter; dry, generally hot summers
- Soil is fine and dusty in the summer; wet, slippery and heavy in the winter

Course Profile

Stone Creek Golf Club is a scenic course laid out over 120 acres in Oregon. The course design highlights the natural beauty of the land and the area, featuring Douglas Firs, lakes, natural wetlands and outstanding views of Mt. Hood.

According to superintendent Dave Phipps, players are usually pleasantly surprised by the condition of the course. Golfers often find it hard to believe that a municipal course can be

so well maintained, a compliment that Phipps attributes to his staff's hard work and attention to detail.

The fairways and rough are seeded with a mixture of sixty percent fine fescues and forty percent three-way rye grass, a mix designed by Dr. Leah Brillman with Seed Research. The tees are also three-way rye grass, and are regularly interseeded with ryegrass.



The greens feature Penn Links creeping bentgrass. They are interseeded regularly with Penn A-1, about five to six times per year.

Challenge

One of the challenges that Phipps faces is extremely dry summer weather, contrasted by a very wet winter season. Phipps tried to find ways to better manage his water supply, getting the water into the ground as soon as

(continued on reverse)



Phipps says that because Duplex is so easy to apply, he doesn't feel a need to be overly scientific with his application rates, preferring to simply set the pump timer to match the run time on the irrigation system. "That way I know that the whole course has received a little taste of Duplex," he says.

Since enjoying the results that Duplex has brought to his course, Phipps makes sure to have enough product on hand.

"Duplex is a staple in my budget," said Phipps. "I budget for Duplex like I budget for my fertilizer. If I've got extra money before the end of the year and I can pick up an extra barrel or two, I'll do that and just have it in stock."

possible. He decided that the best way to do this was to install an injector pump in his irrigation system. He contacted his Precision representative, who supplied him with a pump and three barrels of Duplex™.

Products Used and Benefits

Phipps injected Duplex once per month throughout the hottest parts of summer, and saw significant results. According to Phipps, "this was one of the driest summers that we had, but it was also one of the summers where my fairways were the greenest and I had fewer dry spots. The only thing that changed was that injection of Duplex on the golf course."

Duplex works by significantly reducing the surface tension of water, letting it freely penetrate through thatch and water-repellant soils. Because it improves the irrigation water quality and efficiency, Duplex saves water, time, labor and budgets.



Duplex injected into the irrigation system keeps water use efficient throughout the summer.



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