

Humpty Doo Golf Course Greens Report 30/01/19

Hello all, apologies for the overdue report.

Since my last report, several things have been happening. Hopefully, at last, we are through the build up and in to the wet season. This should allow us to now make some progress in getting the greens to start recovering after all of the problems that are caused by very high humidity. Since the rains have begun, I have been able to start using low amounts of liquid fertilizer to get some new growth to come through on the problem greens. It will still take some time, but I am pleased to see some movement at this stage. I have been unable to do this for the last couple of months due to the fact that during the high humidity periods there is a greater amount of fungal issues to deal with, especially Pythium, which is our main problem. Pythium feeds on nitrogen, so obviously I have not been able to use any.

Although I have said that I am now starting to use fertilizer, it will only take a couple of hot, rain-free days to bring back the humidity and the disease, so I will be keeping an eye out for it. There has been a small outbreak of Pythium in the last few days that is on all greens. This has been treated today with the appropriate curative fungicide which should resolve the issue.

The new green on the ninth is obviously now in play. I have probably opened it a little early, as it still needs to cover in a couple of places, but I'm sure it is better than putting on the old one. It will still need some time to thicken up and become smooth. I will do this by grooming, sanding and feeding over the next couple of months. I think that once I have been able to finish the second part of the construction process, we will end up with a very good green. The out-side banking of the green will take some time to fill in, as I am unable to put anymore seed down until the heavy rain has stopped.

Also, as all can see, the 7th green has grass starting to take hold. It is not as much as I would like, but it was a struggle to get any more cores from the 2nd or the 5th greens due to how wet the soil has become. However, we have what we have, and it is starting to grow, which is great news. Unfortunately, this means a temporary green for a while. Admittedly, this is not the best thing to be putting on, but I will do what I can to get it smooth and get some grass on it. Thank you for your patience with this, it is a necessary step in getting the 7th green sorted out.

The other problem I have hopefully now sorted out is that we have had Mole-Crickets on some of the greens. These Crickets get to about 2 inches in size and can do a lot of damage to turf by eating the roots. You may have noticed some little sand piles on the greens at times. Some of these are from ants, but the ones with the large hole in the middle are Mole-Crickets. As I have said, I have treated these for the minute, but I cannot be sure if they have laid eggs or not. These can become fairly hard to get rid of, but I am hopeful that we caught them early. The kind of damage they do can clearly be seen on the middle slope of the sixth green. So far I have only found evidence of them on the 3rd, 5th, and 6th greens.

So, to conclude until next time, hopefully we will continue to get rain, which keeps the humidity down, which means I can get the greens moving on.....

Many thanks as always.

Danny