



## April/May Course Update

Much like the beginning of our February/March course update: “the course has been consistently soaked”, is still true. We saw a tremendous weather event during the end of February which turned #10 into a Par 4 island green and #11 Fairway in a mud bog. Unfortunately, cleanup for this weather event, as well as the inability to simply get equipment to a few areas due to the wetness (still), has led to the delay of some of our planned winter projects. We will be tackling these projects as-able in the coming weeks and hope to have them completed before the turf starts aggressively growing.

Considering the lack of growth for the last 4-5 months, the greens have come out of Winter in excellent shape, with only a few areas that show visible signs of struggle. Our mild off-season, and heavy moisture have really greened the course up and, as this is written, we are nearing 100% greenup.

As we turn the calendar to April, you will see the agronomy staff switching their focus from project-type work to our more routine schedule of mowing and maintenance. This month marks the calendar beginning of our “growing season”. April will see our Monday tee times be pushed back to 11am. This delay in tee times allows us to perform the cultural practices of Topdressing, Vertical Mowing, Spiking, etc. and is essential to championship conditions and the health of the greens in the spring, summer, and fall. Your cooperation and understanding for this delay is much appreciated.

## February/March Status

- Course-wide application of our pre-emergent herbicide for Summer weeds.
- Removal and replacement of the sand in the greenside bunkers on #6.
- Several projects to improve the area in and around the maintenance facility.
- Replacement of the faulty drainage between #4 green and the cart path. Once we started digging, there was some serious head scratching about what happened during the initial installation of this line. Regardless, this area should drain substantially better than in the past.
- Repair of the broken cart path along #7 tee. In addition to the repair of the concrete, we rocked along the edge of the path to slow rainwater and hopefully prevent any future washing.
- Repair of several drainage basins which had washouts surrounding the intake.
- Sanding and repainting of the tee markers.
- Addition of sub-surface drainage along the right side of #6 fairway and rough from around 40 yards to 150 yards out from the green. During the grow in process, this will be a temporary eyesore. However, we hope that this drainage will substantially improve playability in the area.



*#6 Drainage Addition*

## April/May Goals

- Removal of a large portion of trees on the left side of #11. These trees are creating tremendous shade and moisture issues resulting in thin turf and poor playing conditions. With the onset of more favorable growing conditions, we will smooth and sod the weak areas in the fairway.
- “Wrapping” of the sand bins on the course with stained wood. This will allow our divot sand bins to match the new water cooler stands and improve the look of the areas around the bins.
- Seeding of new “Native Areas”. The largest of these areas will be around the teeing area of #17 and the out of play areas on #12. If we have positive feedback about the appearance of these areas after their establishment then we will expand this to other areas of the course. Our goal is to reduce maintenance in these largely unplayable areas while also creating some seasonal interest from native grasses. However, these areas will be beat up prior to planting and will temporarily look unattractive.
- Planting of wildflowers in several fescue areas around the course. Much like the new native areas, we are trying a few different mixes. In addition to seeing which of these seed mixes is the most adapted to our area, we will be looking for feedback about the aesthetic improvement of these out of play areas. We are looking forward to both the benefit of the attractive color and the wildlife which come with these types of establishments.
- Treating the course for fire ants.
- A hollow-tine aerification, “pulling a core” will occur on May 20<sup>th</sup> (Front 9 and Practice Green) and May 21<sup>st</sup> (Back 9 and Chipping Green). We will be applying granular fertilizer a few days prior and during to encourage a quick recovery. As a reminder, this temporary disruption in putting quality is critical to the long-term health of the greens and is an essential practice to maintain the conditions we expect at the Ole Miss Golf Course. We will be publishing additional information about this process as the time approaches.
- In addition to the greens aerification during the week of May 20th, we will be performing an aerification of our tees, fairways, and weak areas of the rough.
- A spring fertilizer application to the tees, fairways, and rough.
- Mulching of the remaining beds and tee signs.

## - Ole Miss Golf Course Agronomy



*Do Tarps Work??? YES!*



*#11 Fairway Post-February Storm*