



February/March Course Update

At the midway point of Winter, the course has been consistently soaked and unseasonably warm. Unfortunately, we have spent the majority of our time limited to “Cart Path Only”, especially on the weekends when these rain events seem to keep occurring. However, the warmth has been a pleasant surprise; the only exception to this coming between the 28th and 31st of January, when temperatures dipped down into the low 20’s and barely reached above freezing for 48 hours. It appears the covers have done their job and insulated the greens during this period of extreme cold. Presently, the greens have yet to reach complete dormancy and are unseasonably green for this time of year. While this is great for aesthetics and playability, in the event of an extreme cold event, this can make the turf more susceptible to Winterkill. As this is written, the extended forecast is favorable for more warm weather, however, this can change at any moment. If needed, the Agronomy staff will deploy the covers once again to protect the greens. We would like to point out that this time of year the greens really appear to be “beat up” as they have had minimal growth since late October. Unable to grow out of damage, four months of traffic, ball marks, and cup cutting take a toll on the putting surface. Until we can begin our cultural practices such as topdressing, vertical mowing, and light fertilization this wear is an unavoidable nuisance. In the meantime, please help us by fixing your ball mark and one other.

December/January Status

- Like this past winter, the crew planted 1,000 additional daffodils.
- Greens were painted on December 5th for some additional color; we don’t anticipate needing to do this again.
- The post-emergent application for Winter weeds was made on January 12th and then again on February 1st. These are slow acting herbicides but should largely eliminate the Poa in and around the collars and close-mowed turf.
- Mulch paths were added between #7 tee and #9 fairway and also #17 cart path and #15 green to allow access for cart traffic during: tournaments, Tuesday senior group, and weather events where players need to get back to the pro shop quickly.
- The large majority of the tree work around #3 green has been completed and Dwarf Magnolias were planted. While these are slow growing plants, in the coming years they will create an attractive evergreen surround and frame the hole from the tee. These plants will remain short enough to allow the morning sun we hoped to encourage by clearing the large trees on the hill-side left of the green.



February/March Goals

- Course-wide application of our pre-emergent herbicide for Summer weeds.
- 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 favorable growing conditions, we will smooth and sod the weak areas in the fairway.
- Removal of several trees surrounding the back tees on #7 and #9.
- Removal and replacement of much of the sand in the greenside bunkers on #6. During construction of the new Golf Team facility, heavy rains moved and deposited a lot of silt, creating major drainage issues in these bunkers. If needed, we will remove all of the sand and replace the drain lines.
- Repair of the broken cart path along #7 tee. In addition to the repair of the concrete, we will rock along the edge of the path to slow rainwater down, and hopefully prevent any future washing.
- Instillation of the artificial turf mat to the back of the driving range tee.
- “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.
- Repair of several drainage basins which have washouts surrounding the intake.
- Expanding the drainage in the right side bunker in front of #15 green.
- Addition of sub-surface drainage along the right side of #6 fairway and rough from around 50 yards to 150 yards out from the green. This will be an extensive addition of drainage and will hopefully aide in the improvement of the wet conditions prevalent in that portion of #6 during the off-season. The flat, low-lying nature of this portion of the golf course has made drainage challenging and the extent of this improvement will hopefully be substantial enough to allow cart traffic in this area during the winter. During this time that area will be marked “ground under repair” and we will have to limit all cart traffic until the sod over the drain lines has established. While this will be a temporary eye-sore, we hope that this drainage will substantially improve playability in the area.

We look forward to completing these improvements during our off-season to make this year’s golf experience even better than the last.

- Ole Miss Golf Course Agronomy