



Course Superintendents Report September 2026

With Winter coming to a close it is now the start of the growing season and 7 months of pain and torture ahead if what I am hearing come to fruition with the prediction of increased temperatures and very little rainfall.

Starting Monday the 7th of September, we will begin our renovation process to ensure all finely manicured areas around the course is ready for whatever weather predictions are coming up, the more cultural practices we can perform to give the plant a more favourable growing condition, the better it can handle extreme weather conditions and suppress disease and insect damage. With the course being closed for four days it will give us time to aerate greens, tees and fairways, top dress greens with more rubbing in than we would normally be able to achieve and fertilise greens, tees, fairways, collars and aprons. We are also hoping to borrow a scarifier to scarify fairways and a power rake to really rotate and level the soil in some tired looking areas which will take a long time to repair itself, but it will be for the greater good.

Soil samples recently performed in August came back with high amounts of sodium in the soil due to our poor water quality which will block nutrients being taken up by the plant and above threshold numbers of sting nematodes which puts even more pressure on us leading into this time of year, throughout the growing season we will have to focus on aerating more regularly to give the greens more favourable growing conditions and being religious with our nematicide, foliar fertiliser and gypsum applications.

At the end of this month, we will apply an insecticide on tees, fairways, collars and aprons to protect us from black beetle, armyworm, billbug, stem weevil, scarab etc. and hopefully there will be a new insecticide coming out soon for our troublesome ground pearl areas which will be exciting because at the moment there is only one insecticide registered for ground pearl and it's not the silver bullet that completely gets rid of this troublesome pest but from what I have been told this new insecticide will be very effective and I hope to see improvements in areas such as the 1st and 18th fairways.

Everything is planned and ready to go for our upcoming renovations, all we need is some decent weather and everything will go according to plan.

Peter Chard

Course Superintendent