



SUPERINTENDENTS SAY INTERSEEDING WORKS FOR THEM

Fast becoming the most highly regarded method for improving turf without interrupting course play, interseeding with the advanced bentgrasses from Tee-2-Green Corp. is gaining popularity among superintendents.

The interseeding process is simple: During aerification, superintendents put down one of the aggressive Penn bentgrass varieties, slowly building their seed bank. Over time, the stronger Penn bentgrasses will grow and spread to become the dominant turf on greens, fairways and tees. These dynamic varieties will even out-compete many unwanted weeds, including *Poa annua*.

Six superintendents – from both private clubs and public golf courses, located all over the country – shared their success stories of how interseeding worked for them, providing impressive results and proving time - and cost-efficiencies.

BALTUSROL GOLF CLUB: SPRINGFIELD, NJ

In 1999, after a general thinning of the greens due to severe weather conditions, Mark Kuhns, director of grounds at Baltusrol Golf Club, was experiencing up to an 80 percent turf loss on some of his greens. He looked to an aggressive, but effective method of interseeding with hopes of getting his greens converted to Penn A-4.

The process begins in August with aerification. Kuhn uses quarter-inch hollow core quad tines approximately three inches deep and takes most of the top material off. Next, seed is broadcast on the greens followed by a spiking machine with brushes on the back to get seed and sand in all the holes. The end result is a wonderful seed bed that the crew syringes until germination.

“Every time we aerify, we do the interseeding,” explains Kuhns. “Anytime in the spring when we want to lightly spike the greens with triad and put some sand on, we will also seed. It’s all part of the process and if we can seed into that process with success, we’re going to do that.”

For his due diligence, Kuhns is experiencing success. “The *Poa annua* we’ve been competing with cannot compete with the Penn A-4’s. We’re up to approximately 60-80 percent bentgrass on our greens now because of this interseeding process.”



STONE CREEK GOLF CLUB: OREGON CITY, OR

Whether it’s a result of spiking, verticutting or topdressing, superintendents regularly groom the turf surface throughout the growing season, which presents a great opportunity to introduce an improved seed into the stand.

“Every time I open up the greens, I like to reintroduce seed into the green,” says Dave Phipps, superintendent at Stone Creek Golf Club. “I’ll throw about a half pound of Penn A-1 in there and I’m seeing some tremendous results.”

Phipps looks at it as one additional, but small step in the overall topdressing program, requiring just one extra guy to put seed down. Plus, at a cost of about \$200 per application, it’s an economical way to incorporate the most advanced Penn bentgrasses onto the course.

“I’ve been doing it now for two years and I’ve seen an overall appearance, vigor and turf quality and texture in all my greens.”



YALE UNIVERSITY GOLF COURSE: NEW HAVEN, CT

With a goal to be the greenest university in the world, Scott Ramsay, golf course superintendent at Yale University Golf Course, strives to do his part by restricting water consumption to 150,000 gallons per day and reducing pesticide usage.

Surprisingly, he encouraged anthracnose to set in, and as a result, reduced *Poa annua*, which provided an opportunity to interseed Penn A-4 into the greens. By taking measures to keep *Poa* in check, Ramsay has already lowered fertilizer usage and watering rates to bentgrass levels.

“We’ve started the interseeding program and are basically going to treat the greens for the next month like they are a brand new grow-in,” says Ramsay. “I choose Penn A-4 because it’s the first thing I can get to germinate at a greens height. Once it’s there, it will crawl over the top of the *Poa*.”

Ramsay has successfully used interseeding on previous courses, so he knows it works, “It will be five to seven years before I get the right balance of *Poa* and bent. I’ll never get rid of the *Poa*, but I just want a good population of a modern bentgrass.”





HINSDALE GOLF CLUB: CLARENDON HILLS, IL

When Bob Maibusch, golf course superintendent at Hinsdale Golf Club, was in a position to restore the club's 100-year old fairway turf, he turned to a combination of Velocity® and interseeding. He used Velocity to eliminate the *Poa annua*, while the interseeding process was used to establish new turf.

“We used a 50/50 combination of PennLinks II and Penneagle II, but found that the depth of the spiker-seeder was tearing some turf up,” explains Maibusch. “So we wrapped the drum in the same material we use for lining our bunkers and that reduced the depth that the spiker went into the soil, but it was still deep enough for the seed to take hold.”

The combination of Velocity and interseeding worked well and Maibusch has germination in five to seven days of seeding. Now, two years after the interseeding process occurred, the fairways are more than 90 percent bentgrass.

COUNTRY CLUB AT CASTLE PINES: CASTLE ROCK, CO

Severe winter weather was making it much harder for the fairways at Country Club at Castle Pines to rebound quickly. So in 2001, Sean McCue, golf course superintendent, started looking at turf options to replace the perennial ryegrass.

After testing five bentgrass varieties, McCue turned to Seaside II as the new fairway option. Rather than complete a full renovation, McCue sought an aggressive interseeding program.

“With a sterilization, you have to take it out of play for two months depending how you do it. We have too much play here, so the next best thing was to enter an aggressive interseeding program. We can essentially get to the same point, but it will take us four years to get there.”

Now in its fourth year, the interseeding program has proven to be highly successful with fairways at close to 85 percent bentgrass. Not only are the fairways rebounding more quickly after harsh winter conditions, but overall water consumption has decreased by nearly 25 percent.



COUNTRY CLUB OF THE ROCKIES: VAIL, CO

Upon realizing that bentgrass had invaded small patches of the fairway and was doing particularly well, Kevin Ross, director of golf course management at Country Club of the Rockies, embarked on a complete bentgrass fairway conversion.

“I loved Penneagle for years. It doesn't thatch up too much and gives you good density without a lot of water use, so when the improved Penneagle II came down the pike, I was pretty excited,” remarks Ross.

Ross opted for a gentle conversion to convert the fairways to the new bentgrass variety. He followed an interseeding program that added some quick, easy steps to the existing maintenance program.

“We seed twice a year. We aerify and seed in spring and in fall on fairways. No Roundup®, nothing like that. Just basically a little growth regulator, aerification, seeding, topdressing, watering it and then kind of switching the pendulum to the bentgrass and away from the bluegrass. And that's worked out great for us.”

THE BEST, MOST RESPECTED VARIETIES

Interseeding with the new Penn bentgrass varieties is an effective way for superintendents to improve their turf quality, reduce inputs and improve overall course conditions. And because the advanced Penn bents are more disease resistant and tolerant of extreme conditions, their use results in both time and cost efficiencies.

Known for its wide range of adaptability and aggressive lateral growth habit, **Penncross** recovers quickly from divots, and exhibits good heat and wear tolerance.

Thanks to deep rooting, **Penn A's & G's** tolerate heat, humidity, cold, disease and wear better than many other bentgrasses. These varieties also adapt more quickly to raising and lowering of cutting heights while maintaining a putting surface that's consistent and virtually grainless.

Recognized for a dark green color that deepens quickly in the spring, **Penneagle II** is especially prized for its resistance to brown patch and can be blended with **PennLinks II** for resistance to dollar spot too.

PennLinks II displays good tolerance to both heat and drought, but its improved resistance to dollar spot makes it a very popular choice, especially when blended with **Penneagle II** for resistance to brown patch as well.

One of the newest varieties, **Crystal BlueLinks**, received a top-rated performance in the most recent NTEP trials. The variety provides a distinctive bluish-green color and maintains remarkable disease resistance to brown patch, dollar spot and copper spot.



LEARN MORE!

For more detailed interviews from these six superintendents, as well as additional advice on interseeding techniques, contact Tee-2-Green Corp. for a copy of its interseeding video.

The video is free upon request and can be ordered by visiting the Tee-2-Green Web site, www.tee-2-green.com.

