

News



FIRE ANTS ON THE GOLF COURSE.

Over the last few weeks, some nests have been discovered on the golf course. The Superintendent has obtained the appropriate chemicals from the relevant authorities and is treating the affected areas.

Note: Should you encounter a nest during play, free relief is available under Rule 16.2 b Dangerous Animals (which includes Fire Ants). Relief is clear of the affected area, no nearer the hole.

First aid for fire ant stings

- Fire ant stings are painful with a burning or itching sensation.
- Fire ants usually sting all at once and can sting repeatedly.
- Stings are painful, with burning or itching that can last up to an hour.

What are the symptoms of fire ant stings? Fire ant stings are painful, and can cause:

- a severe burning sensation
- "fiery" pain
- swelling
- redness
- blistering.
- Stings can last up to an hour.
- Small blisters or pustules (small bumps with fluid or pus) can appear on the skin after a couple of hours and sometimes even up to a day or two after being stung.
- If the blisters get broken they can become infected.

What should you do if you've been stung by fire ants?

- If the ants are still on you or your pet pick them off by hand. If you try and brush them off this will make them more aggressive, and if ants are sprayed with water, they may latch on with their jaws.
- Apply a cold compress to alleviate swelling and pain.
- Carefully wash the affected area with soap and water.
- Immediately seek medical attention if you are allergic to insect stings or have symptoms of allergy.
- Fire ant stings can take up to 10 days to heal. If the blisters or pustules break, there is a risk they can get infected. If pain persists or blisters get infected, see your doctor. Infected stings may require antibiotics.

Severe allergic reactions

Although rare, fire ant stings can cause severe and sometimes fatal allergic reactions (e.g. anaphylaxis). Seek immediate medical advice if you are allergic to insects or have the following symptoms:

- rapid onset of flushing
- general hives
- swelling of the face, eyes, or throat
- chest pains
- nausea
- severe sweating
- breathing difficulties
- faintness.

Be safe.

Leigh Madsen - Captain

ProShop Update

Don't forget the Winter Teams Championships starting tomorrow.

For more information and to enter your team please see the Proshop Staff before the 1st round starts tomorrow.

ps. Handiskins also starts soon for those who enjoy the annual challenge.

Course Update

Superintendents Report - May 2024

Dear Members,

The course is heading into winter fairly strongly with plenty of grass coverage. It's extremely important to head into winter as strong as possible as the turf does not recover as quickly during the cooler months due to the plant going into a stage of dormancy.

The week beginning the 22nd of April, we spot treated all the unwanted grasses on the TiffEagle greens with a targeted herbicide and have the follow up application due the week of the 20th of May. 7-10 days after that application the agronomy team will begin plugging these areas out.

We are currently training staff members to use the hand sprayer, mainly in the bunkers. You may notice there is some off target spraying. As I am sure you can appreciate, it's all a part of the learning process and these areas will bounce back in due course.

On the 15th tee you will notice we have removed the rocks on the black tee. This decision was made purely to help with time management and will mean the agronomy team are able to mow with a mower rather than a brush cutter which also provides a sharper cut.

On the 13th of May we applied a selective herbicide to all greens with the aim to remove crows foot that is present in our greens. The plant affected will begin going brown in the coming weeks as the plant dies. The 328-couch will begin filling these areas, this will be an ongoing program to monitor.

On the 20th of May the agronomy team solid tined greens and the 8th approach as winter is upon us with current nighttime temperatures getting quite low and it is only getting colder. The main reason for this is to help dry out the soil which allows it to breath and get some warmth into the soil profile during the warmer days. It's not ideal to be receiving any rain heading into winter as the sun is losing heat and shadows are getting longer, so the soil temperature is dropping, and the drying of surfaces takes a lot longer.

Week of the 27th of May, we will give the greens a light dusting of sand. This helps with microbial activity in the soil and also firms and smooths out the playing surface which will improve playability and ball speed.

Also, during next week, the agronomy team will begin spot spraying fairways to eradicate the winter weeds using a selective herbicide, for example- clover. When the fairways have been completed the agronomy team will begin on tees and green surrounds. These areas will also see the same application but a blanket spray, we will see some discoloration with certain grasses like carpet grass and also Queensland blue couch. This will take 2 applications 4-6 weeks apart. Once this program is completed, we will begin spraying out the carpet grass in all fine cut surfaces.

The golf course has seen a fire ant nest pop up over the past few weeks (see above). We have been in contact with the National Fire Ant Eradication Program and are now waiting on more bait for the nest. If you do come across a nest, please don't disturb the nest, we are aware of them and are treating them as per instructions. This will be an ongoing issue which we will need to continue to treat and monitor.

Thank you for your assistance with this.

The Tee's have all received a slow release granular fertilize this week. This will give 10-12 weeks coverage and will help the couch get as much growth as possible during the winter months.

Regards,

Taylor Wills - Golf Course Superintendent



[View email in browser](#)

[update your preferences or unsubscribe](#)