

July 11, 2014

**Windmill Ridge Golf Course
Monett, Missouri**

DATE OF VISIT: July 8th and 9th

PERSONS PRESENT:

Justin Beck, Golf Course Superintendent
Michael D. Vogt, CGCS, CGIA

Overview of Greens

The bacterial decline (*Xanthomonas translucens* pv *poae*) has once again been problematic on the greens, attacking just the *Poa annua*. In Photo 1, dated July 11, 2012, notice just the *Poa annua* is being affected. But unlike the bacterial decline now being experienced, no etiolation¹ is present. It is my belief these two problems, although attacking just annual Bluegrass, are not the same causal agent.



Photo 1 Green from July 2012

¹ Etiolation is characterized by long and often rapidly growing weak stems and/or leaves; smaller, sparser leaves due to longer internodes; and a pale yellow color (chlorosis).

Overview of Greens (continued)

An aggressive strategy to continually attempt to eliminate annual Bluegrass may be undertaken; complete chemical control of the bacterial wilt has not been successful. Superintendent Beck has had reasonable success with a product called ZeroTrol™ (hydrogen dioxide), unfortunately these treatments only slow the infection. The only certain course of action to solve this bacterium from reoccurring is complete renovation with bentgrass sod or a substantial shift in green population to bentgrass. One of the better articles on the subject is available here:

[Dealing with Bacterial Wilt in Poa annua](#)

This August an overseeding program may prove to help establishment of more bentgrass on greens along with TrimmIt™ application to suppress annual Bluegrass. An intense strategy of discouraging annual Bluegrass and encouraging bentgrass should be considered as one of the best long term strategies. As of July 7th, other than several spots of etiolation, the greens have recovered nicely from the harsh winter.

Sod Nursery / Practice Green



Photo 2 Sod nursery future practice green, July 7, 2014

After nurturing the Practice green back to reasonable health early this spring, it is believed that a water problem all but destroyed the practice green. It is a shame that the progress was ruined. Stripping and reseeding may take place in mid to late August. Good procedures for seeding greens are available at:

[Seeding Bentgrasses](#)

Sod Nursery / Practice Green (continued)



Photo 3 Bent sod nursery/new practice green, April 23rd, 2014

Fairways

Fairway turf had a difficult time in recovery due in large part to the harsh winter temperature, with little or no snow cover to help insulate the soil and underground root parts. The majority of turf loss has been on the east side of the course. There are many reasons that may contribute to the Bermuda turf loss on fairways, no one reason is likely to result in intense thinning and complete loss experienced at Windmill Ridge.

I recommend, as soon as practical, to install Bermuda sprigs to the areas deemed non-recoverable.

Superintendent Beck has already formulated a plan to repair these areas. Timing is essential, installation of Bermuda sprigs must be finished during the heat of summer; so that a level of maturity can be had before cooler temperatures arrive.

Fairways (continued)



Photo 4 Number 6 approach, notice red line

In Photo 4, it's believed that variety of turf, sun exposure, soil type and drainage have impacted the survival of the Bermuda grass to the left of the red line. Caution should be taken when applying dormant chemicals to prevent weeds for the 2015 season.

Conclusion

It has been my pleasure to be associated with the City of Monett and Windmill Ridge Golf Course for the last several years. City Manager, Dennis Pyle and Commissioner Mike Brownsberger are to be commended on their involvement with the golf course and support of the many projects we have undertaken.

Now with superintendent Beck adding his expertise and leadership, I believe Windmill Ridge to be in good hands.

As always if you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at your convenience, email mvogt@mcmahongroup.com or cell number (636) 448-0699.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Michael D. Vogt.

Michael D. Vogt, CGCS, CGIA