

Golf Course News



Dear Members,

To me, the fall is the best time of the year. I never realized how much I loved it until I spent the past five years working in Dongguan. Now consulting on multiple golf courses for a living, it is even more special. "It's not how you look in August, it's how you look in September." We're all just trying to complete all agronomic works in our growing season, June - August, and hopefully you see the beneficial results of the battle in the fall.

This fall has taken its time getting here, though. Afternoon thundershowers followed by a direct hit typhoon, but this year we've had continuing warm temperatures throughout September. Record breaking heat extending the growing season. The days are getting shorter and the nights are getting cooler.

With the lower temperatures and lower humidity that will eventually arrive comes the ability to achieve the conditions we strive to achieve all year but without the stress. With the fall also comes your club championships and it's great to be able to have the greens rolling faster and the fairways firm for one of first events of the golf season, especially this year, after a number of courses suffered from damage. The early fall is the time to show off all of the hard work we had to put in to get conditions back to normal.

Superintendents are pushed in multiple directions during the summer growing season, mowing frequency increases, fatigue to staff due to heat, excessive rainfall, dooming deadlines to complete cultural works.

During the summer by pushing turf grass health now it's time to produce amazing playing conditions.

I can't think of many other jobs that are at the mercy of the weather as much as that of a golf course superintendent's. Everyone watches the weather, but to a course superintendent, it governs what work will be done every single day. When the temperature is in the teen's, it is survival mode; when it's in the 30's, it's a completely different list of priorities.

All of this effects how a golf course plays. In South China, you'll find some of the best playing conditions of the year in September and October. It's not that we don't want to produce these conditions all season; it's that we've worked all summer to make everything healthy and in the fall the grass will practically live on its own!

The work never ends, though. Fall brings a whole new list of things to do but with a much disease potential. As the season wears on, there is everything from winter construction projects, bunker renovation, and irrigation system maintenance, to ordering all of the winter equipment parts and making sure the trees and landscape are managed, the course is in its best condition, just to name a few. However, before all of that, it's time for golfers to enjoy the course and the beautiful fall weather, the best time of the year.

With Best Regards

Harbour Plaza Golf Club

Grounds Maintenance Department