

# The Villages®

## Turf Talk

January 2015

Winter Issue

### WINTER REMINDERS

- ◆ As the overseed continues to mature on the greens, ball marks will be prevalent—please remember to repair yours and another!
- ◆ Practice Good Golf by staying on the golf car path's as much as possible...this will assist the turf and provide the best possible playing conditions for you
- ◆ Fill those divots with sand provided!
- ◆ Help everyone have a great experience by playing within Time Par!

We are excited to offer the first edition of The Villages Turf Talk! Turf Talk's intent is to share information with you in regards to upcoming maintenance projects and practices; it will be published 3 times a year (January, May, & September)

The Villages recognizes the importance of quality maintenance to the golfer's experience. In late 2014, we strategically extended and increased our partnerships with 3 maintenance companies that have consistently proven to produce quality conditions for our residents. Combined with Landirr (who maintains the new Belle Glade Country Club), these companies maintain all The Villages Country Clubs, and most of The Villages Executive Courses. These companies will be working with each other, with the common goal of producing consistent quality conditions that meet or exceed your expectations.

<u>ASG</u>	<u>Down to Earth</u>	<u>Landirr</u>	<u>ValleyCrest</u>
Havana	Orange Blossom	Belle Glade	Glenview
Evans Prairie	Hacienda Hills		Nancy Lopez
Bonifay	Tierra del Sol		
Cane Garden	Mallory Hill		
	Palmer Legends		

### Why is the Grass Cut So Short?

This question we hear quite frequently, especially in the winter months, so we wanted to share some information, as well as let you know how you can assist. We agree in many cases the fairways and roughs become extremely "tight". However, the cause of this is not relative to the actual mowing height. Our Fairways are mowed at, or slightly higher (.5 to .75 inch) than most courses and standard industry practices. Our roughs are mowed at approximately 1 ½ inches, and during the winter months, may go weeks without being mowed at all as they are in a state of dormancy. What causes this condition, first starts with the large amount of golf car traffic, this is probably the number one challenge our golf course superintendents face. Secondly, is water, we have enough water to supplement the greens, tee's, fairways, and to some extent the roughs, but during periods of drought, it's a real challenge. Third is the overall health of the plant itself, which has a lot to do with the first two factors.

Our golfers can assist this by truly practicing the 90 degree rule and minimizing the amount of time our golf car tires spend on the turf. Also, by being good stewards of our water resource in your own lawns.

Rest assured, our expectations are the same as our golfers. These areas are not intentionally being mowed short; they are a result of the challenges mentioned. Remember the bermuda grass is dormant from approximately December through March. Our golf course superintendents will continue to work diligently to provide the best possible playing conditions.

SUMMER



WINTER



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