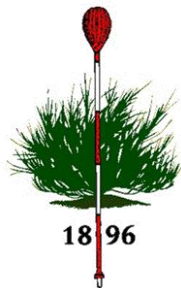
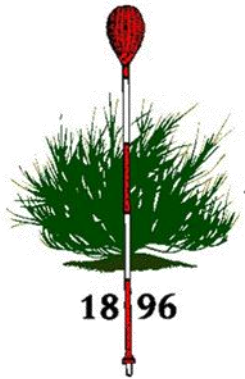


# MAXIMIZING PLAYABILITY WHILE MINIMALIZING INPUTS

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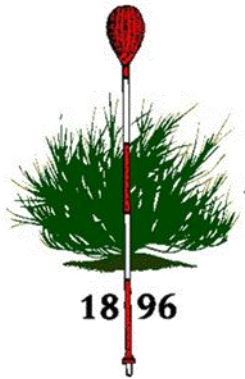


Funding expectations, is that sustainable while maintaining conditioning?

It is if the right grasses are in place.

There is or was a movement to have more browning of playing surfaces, but in reality that is unacceptable!

What is desired is great playing conditions, while the course looks exceptional!



This is achieved by either rebuilding like Dan Meersman recently did or trying to achieve those objectives with old construction and new grasses introduced through over seeding and sodding.

Reconstruction is quicker and the results are more consistent.

The second way is more time consuming with ever changing conditioning.

Working from the top down is much more difficult than the bottom up.



However you choose to get there when the goal is reached several objectives will be met.

- Better playing conditions
- Better and more consistent appearance.
- Less inputs water, fertilizer, chemicals, fuel, parts, labor, equipment replacement



## Current conditions on Golf Clubs:

In the last three decades golf courses have become greener, and as a result more of everything was needed to keep the appearance of the course up to the standard of acceptance. Why is this could be blamed on the Augusta Syndrome, automatic irrigation, highly educated Superintendents, better golfing equipment or all of the above and then some! What was sacrificed, the playability of the golf course! Golf in the 60s and 70s was played on firmer browner playing surfaces. Then in the mid 80's until now courses have become more receptive (nice way of saying soft). But the golf clubs of today enable the player to hit it further, thus eliminating the hard bounces and long run outs.

This is the desired appearance  
But firmer playing conditions



When the wrong grass is in place and you try to maintain appearance, the following occurs:

- First you pump copious amounts of water.
- This results in more fertility required to achieve a green appearance!
- More fertility and water leads to more diseases which requires more chemistry to control those diseases.

Now that we are spending all our money on the previous three, we will now spend more money on:

- Cutting
- Labor to run the mowers
- Fuel to power them
- Parts to maintain them
- Labor to repair them and keep reels sharp
- Putting more hours on equipment results in more frequent replacement of expensive equipment.

## OPTIONS

Stay status quo:  
Less risk



CHANGE:

Reduce your water by 65 to  
75% on fairways.

Reduce the water on greens  
by 50%



Rolling has reduced our dollar spot pressure significantly and has helped us reduce fungicide sprays on both greens, approaches and fairways. It is so effective that on our off cut days on tees we roll them as well for the sole purpose of reducing dollar spot!



During fall aeration introduce new drought tolerant grasses:

- Creeping Bent grasses
- Colonial Bent grasses
- Fescues
- Some large areas are going to require sodding.
- Tree removal should be taken into considerations.



In 2005, after the US Amateur, we started sand topdressing fairways and solid tinning the sand into the profile; this keeps the surfaces dry and eliminates lots of diseases. However, it can make for a very different playing experience; to date we have 600 tons of sand to the acre on our fairways.



This is what 600 tons of sand to the acre looks like



If you rotatilled altogether, you'll have the perfect mix.  
Instead, we are pulling cords bringing the old soil from the bottom up; mixing it altogether to create a firmer surface.  
We utilize Drill and Fill to modify the greens from the top down. This improves the percolation rate by 1.5 % a year; slow but effective.



## END RESULTS

Less inputs and better playability with a consistent appearance.



Returning surfaces of Merion like the days of old!

