

Palmer Scottsdale Addition Rushed to Completion



More than 45,000 sq. ft. of bermudagrass sod was installed in drainage channels in one 10-hour day.

The tourist golfer begins to arrive in the Phoenix, AZ, area in the fall and no golf developer wants to miss that business. So, when the Arnold Palmer-designed Scottsdale Country Club's new nine was still without turf cover last August, special measures were called for to get it done in time.

The challenge, according to Karen Ollerton of A-G Sod Farms, was to install the sod and stolons as soon as possible in order for sufficient growth to take place prior to winter overseeding. Daytime temperatures were at their hottest and August thunderstorms were known to drop two inches of rain in half an hour causing raging floods through flow channels on the golf course.

To avoid erosion and speed up the onset of construction after the rains, more than 45,000 square feet of Tifgreen bermudagrass sod was installed in the drainage channels in one ten-hour day. A crew of 13 men, two power rollers, one fertilizer spreader and one forklift started work at four o'clock in the morning. Each truck carrying 10,000 square feet of sod was spotted at a specific



Over 70,000 sq. ft. of greens and tees were hydromulched in one day.

location along the channel. If just one truck was in the wrong place, severe problems would result with daytime temperatures of 115 degrees.

Next, more than 70,000 square feet of

greens and tees were hydromulched on one day at a rate of 10-13 bushels per 1,000 square feet.

With fall rapidly approaching, five sets of tees and greens were still bare. The entire fourth hole was still sand. It was sodded with a combination of common bermuda and Tifgreen to provide the unique color contrast that Palmer wanted for the hole. Finally, the last five tees and five greens, averaging 6,000 square feet, were carefully sodded to a flat, even slope.

Scottsdale Country Club Superintendent Dennis Reed and consulting superintendent Turner Reaney had their hands full managing the existing 18 holes, coordinating the construction, and preparing the entire course for winter overseeding. The summer of 1985 will be one Reed won't forget for a long time.

A-G Sod Farms was established in 1969 with the formation of Greenlawn Sod Company in Fort Collins, CO. Since that time, it has expanded to Dallas, TX; El Paso, TX; Amarillo, TX; Albuquerque, NM; Phoenix; and most recently Perris, CA. ▶