

## Quail Creek Golf Course

### Transition Period

One of the great things about living in Fairhope, Alabama is the weather provides golfers with the opportunity to play all year long – weather permitting. And weather permitting are the operative words. It's no secret that we compete annually with Seattle for the greatest amount of rainfall, and we seem to be winning that contest perhaps more frequently than we'd like.

While golf courses love rain, we can have too much, and this year we've had too much at the wrong time. May and June are transitioning months for our greens as they move from winter over seeding with Poa Trivialis to Bermuda grass. This transition is to be expected every year about the same time, but the actual timing and length of that transition varies with weather conditions.

We have 'push up' greens which under any circumstances are drainage challenged! This spring we have had more than our normal rainfall so our greens are wetter than we would like or would normally expect them to be. Add to that, we have been experiencing temperature ranges that favor the growth for Poa Trivialis over the Bermuda. Optimum growing conditions are mid-80's during the day and 70's at night together with a minimum of 8 hours of sunlight a day. Where we would normally expect those conditions in May, we haven't had them. We are only now beginning to see the Poa dying out leaving thin areas which we must grow in.

In addition, we have nematode issues on a couple of greens which we have treated. They are responding well. Another sample will be pulled on Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, and another treatment is scheduled for Wednesday night, June 14<sup>th</sup>.

We will continue to fertilize greens weekly until grow in is complete.

Two superintendents from nearby courses have looked at our greens at our request, and they agree that they are moving in the correct direction. All we need are the ingredients to grow grass: sunlight, fertilizer and water – the latter seems to be in abundant supply.

Please bear with us while we carry on the daily contest with Mother Nature to provide you with the best greens possible for your putting pleasure!