

Football - Ben Hill Griffin Stadium



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Turf Coordinator



Schedule:

- Early July, 2 months out from the season opener, we do our 2nd large-scale maintenance of the year.
- First thing we do is come in and mow...get as much grass out of there as we can then mark the irrigation heads.
- Next we verticut in one direction and drag clippings to knock off sand and any excess debris so we aren't picking that stuff up.
- We sweep all that up and make a judgement call as to whether we need to verticut a 2nd direction or not. Often one direction is enough.
- Next, we top dress the field.
- Right behind that we go back and aerate with a solid tine. We do that to get the sand down into the profile. We feel like when we core we disrupt the hole a little too much and we are back-filling with old material. Solid Tines make a nice, clean hole.
- We follow that up by brushing against our topdressing in another direction...really work the sand into our channels.
- This is our last aggressive maintenance before football season but we have verticut reels for our fairway mower and will come in with lighter verticutting and grooming. The fairway mower is a dedicated verticutter.
- Tufting is an issue with Celebration so the frequent, light verticutting really eliminates our runners from getting too long and doing the tufting you see.

Additional Notes:

- Mowing at 1/2 inch to start the season. Will work up to 5/8...maybe .650 by the end of the football season.
- Overseeding is something I want to try here. Just trying to get a little color, a little something growing for the last one or two games of the season. This will help with striping and aesthetics for the final games.
- For me, the most important things for managing Celebration are mowing height and thatch control. If you put a little more in, Celebration is a grass that will really shine for you.