

ADAPTED FROM “ON THE COURSE”

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September/October 2001 Rosedale Newsletter

December 23, 2010

DIVOTS! Everybody creates them. Some larger, some smaller, but all need to be dealt with to ensure speedy recovery of the turf and an enjoyable round for the golfer behind you.

So, how should we deal with divots? First, let me explain a little about Bermuda grass. Bermuda grass grows in two areas, above the surface and below. Above the surface are the runners called stolons. Below the surface there are roots and rhizomes that are white and tender. The rhizomes resurface in divot areas and become new stolons (grass). Roots and rhizomes are cut and suffer the most damage when taking a divot. To protect them from heat and sunlight, we cover them with sand, but how much?

Too much sand has several adverse effects. One, mowers will scalp off the stolons trying to grow across the surface of the divot. Two, the rhizomes have to grow that much longer before becoming grass again. Three, the excess sand enters the reels of mowers and decreases the quality of the cut. Four, in longer terms, excess sand creates a bumpy unlevel surface.

BAD



GOOD



So, how much sand should we use? You probably have not heard this before, but **“DO NOT FILL YOUR DIVOT,”** just **TOPDRESS it** (light sprinkle). Use just enough sand to blanket the cut roots and rhizomes from the sun and heat.

Until next time...I'll see you “topdressing” on the course!