

TURF TALK

Non-Overseed Trial / Water:

This winter season SLHOA2, through the Water Conservation group, a sub-committee of the Golf Committee, has requested to NOT OVERSEED portions of four holes on the property. The holes selected are #6 and #16 at Palo Verde and #5 and #15 at Cottonwood. The greens, green surrounds and tees will be overseeded as normal. This trial will only focus on the fairway sections of these 4 holes. Although the genesis for this program is to determine how SLHOA2 can be better stewards of irrigation water, water-savings will not be the focus of this pilot program this year. The main goal of this initial trial is to simply demonstrate to the homeowners and the golfers how the golf course will look without ryegrass and how Golf Maintenance will manage the turf.

Although most areas of these 4 holes will remain their natural dormant blonde color, there will be trials with turf-paints and fertilizers to help provide some color options. The Golf Maintenance team will work to gain understanding of what the mowing needs will be. Fertility, traffic control and water needs will be a few of the agronomic practices that Golf Maintenance will gain for better understanding. The Golf Maintenance team will ask golfers to keep carts on the paths for these 4 trial holes because of the inability of Bermuda grass to recover while it's dormant.

It's expected that SLHOA2 will notice some water savings but not necessarily a significant amount because of the limited acreage NOT being overseeded in this trial. In subsequent years, Golf Maintenance may adjust this program to look at larger golf holes... par 4's, par 5's.... to determine amounts of potential water savings. It will certainly expand the trial areas into common space of the community as well.

Thanks for your patience and understanding as the Association works to manage one of our most important natural resources.