

TPC Sawgrass Players Stadium Course greens to be renovated in 2016

Work will begin two days after the conclusion of the Players Championship

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Spectators watch the leaders from the hill overlooking the green on hole #4 during final round action in the final round of The Players Championship Sunday, May 11 at the TPC Sawgrass Players Stadium Course.

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The TPC Sawgrass Players Stadium Course will undergo its second major renovation in four years -- this time to the putting surfaces -- beginning after the final round of The Players Championship on May 8, 2016.

Two days later, work will begin on scraping the Miniverde Bermuda grass off the greens and replacing it with the Tifeagle Bermuda that was installed on the Dye's Valley Course during its renovation last year. During the summer of 2013, the Stadium Course fairways were renovated and planted with Celebration bermuda.

The course is scheduled to re-open in mid-November of 2016. The cost of the renovation is not yet known because the scope of the project hasn't been finalized.

TPC Sawgrass general manager Bill Hughes said the project was to further enhance the playing conditions for the best field in golf at the PGA Tour's major championship, which has been contested at the Stadium Course since 1982.

"Without question, The Players Championship has evolved to be one of the most significant championships in professional golf over these past 40 years," Hughes said. It is very important that we do everything possible in not only maintaining [The Players] stature in golf but elevating it when possible. This renovation project is certain to take this championship to another level."

Hughes said the Tifeagle grass will hold up to cold, damp winters better than the Miniverde and is equal to Miniverde during hot months.

Last year, a combination of rain, cold, more cloudy days than normal and a misapplication of chemicals hampered the growth of the greens leading up to The Players. A handful of the greens were closed during practice rounds.

Hughes said the design of the greens will not change but the Tour's Agronomy staff is studying the possibility of enlarging several of the smaller greens to provide more pin positions. Among the candidates are the ninth and 12th holes -- which were among the more troublesome greens in bouncing back from the winter last year.

The entire course was renovated in 2006 after the tournament was moved from March to May.

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