

Sunday Q & A with Shannon Easter, Director of Golf at Broken Sound



1. Why did you choose Sunday?

- a. I chose Sunday Ultra-Dwarf for genetic stability and consistent roll of 10-11's on the stimp meter, which is a desired speed our members like. And Sunday is the easiest ultra-dwarf with which to achieve those speeds. The ball rolls on top of the leaf blades, instead of through the leaf. This is due to the solid cell structure inside the plant leaf not allowing the blade to fold and roll through the leaf.

2. When did you plant and how long did it take to open?

- a. It took us 5 weeks and 2 days from planting to have the putting surface achieve a smooth 9 on the stimp meter.

3. What differences do you see in Sunday versus other ultra-dwarf varieties? Color, thatch, grain, speed, fertility?

- a. In Sunday vs. the other ultra-dwarf, you will see less thatch and more consistent green speeds day to day. It has less grain due to the more vertical growth of Sunday compared to other ultra-dwarf varieties. That is a big bonus on consistency with members and I can use substantially less fertility compared to the other ultra-dwarf varieties.

4. When does your Sunday go dormant, when does it green-up and how does that compare to other ultra-dwarf varieties grown nearby?

- a. For us in South Florida, it holds color weeks longer than the other ultra-dwarfs going into dormancy or with cooler soil temperatures and comes out much faster.

5. Would you call Sunday "low maintenance" compared to other ultra-dwarf varieties and what you know about them?

- a. I would consider the vertical growth of the plant takes less maintenance, less vertical mowing for sure and a little less topdressing. You still have to keep the canopy full, but less so due to reduced verticutting.

6. Would you recommend Sunday to other superintendents?

- a. Absolutely, I would recommend Sunday. It's one of my favorite grasses to grow. Sunday Ultra-Dwarf makes a superintendent's life much easier.

7. What is your general maintenance program in terms of fertility and growth regulators?

- a. For PGR's, we spray every week at 5 oz. per acre and on fertility, we put out 0.2 pounds of N per acre. The rest depends on soil samples and the percentage of granular pounds per month is dependent on the amount of rainfall.

8. Frequency of cultural practices and which ones performed?

- a. Verticut and topdress monthly, which is half of what we do on our other TifEagle greens.
- b. Groom – 2x per week (3x on TifEagle)
- c. Rolling – 3-4 days a week
 - i. We work 11s on the stimpmeter reading and keep the heights at .100.

9. Disease pressure? Fungicides?

- a. We have seen almost no disease pressure down here, which is also due to the carbon in the soil profile.
- b. We have made 4 fungicide applications in the almost 3 years on our test green.

10. Have you seen any off-types?

- a. As a superintendent one of the largest decisions you make for your club is what greens grass to use. Clubs are not rebuilding greens every 10 years like we used to. My first experience with Sunday was at Craft Farms where I worked for eight years. The greens were 22 years old and had ZERO mutations. Genetic stability was the major reason for switching to Sunday Ultra-Dwarf. We mowed at a height of .067” for the GCSAA Superintendents meeting. The Greens were so fast we could not measure green speeds. The ball kept rolling and we had to suspend play to the afternoon.

11. Playability:

- a. Sunday has less grain, is a truer putting surface and has more readable breaks.

12. What is the lowest to highest range you have mowed it?

- a. .067 to .150

13. Do you have a daily target green speed? Has it been easy to achieve?

- a. We have a target goal of 11 on our stimpmeter reading and it is very achievable for our superintendents and members.

14. What is the fastest they have rolled?

- a. 14 plus on stimpmeter

15. Describe the color, texture and putting quality of Sunday?

- a. Sunday gives an extremely desirable color and it holds solid green appeal. I like the texture of the leaf blade; it feels like a zoysia to me. The ball rolls on top of the leaf blade and it's a little prickly. That's how I like mine. That in turn takes out a lot of the grain giving a nice, true putting surface.

16. What are the golfers saying about your greens?

- a. They are happy!

17. What do your Pro and GM have to say about Sunday greens?

- a. Our staff loves the Sunday Ultra-Dwarf, from the general manager to the pro's. The decision to go with Sunday was pushed by one of our superintendents that had previously worked with me at Craft Farms. He has to manage it on a daily basis to keep the members happy.

18. Has it been a financial benefit to the business/club?

- a. Yes, it is a financial benefit for the club. We use less fungicide, have incredible genetic stability and achieve all the goals for our members.. Now we can give a great product and get a longer period of years with genetic stability.