

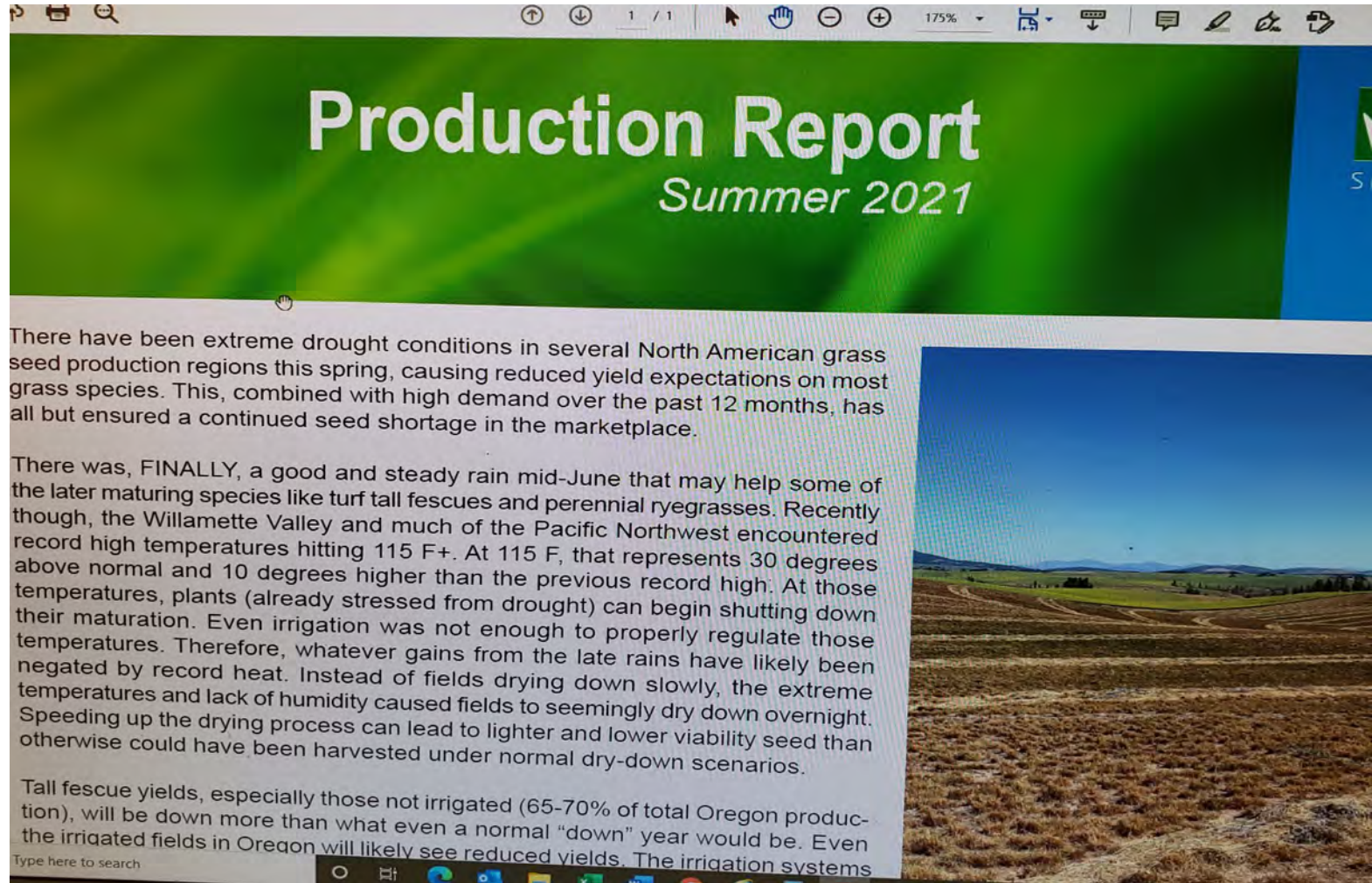
OVERSEED
DECISION
9/28/21

The Views Golf Club



Factors of decision:

1. Spring 2021: Seed vendors warned of price increase for fall 2021.
2. Farmers reducing turf seed acreage to plant higher revenue crops-marijuana.
3. Seed companies purchased by Scotts reduces commercial seed availability.
4. Extreme PNW drought in spring 2021.
5. 115 temps for PNW in June 2021.
6. On July 1, overseeding was still planned as scheduled for Sept 20. Holes #9 and #11 were going to be skipped.
7. Middle of July, warned again about seed prices and that availability was changing dramatically.
8. End of July, seed quote changed seed from \$1.10/lb certified to \$2.20/lb+shipping not certified.
9. Order needed to be confirmed early August 2021.



Production Report Summer 2021

There have been extreme drought conditions in several North American grass seed production regions this spring, causing reduced yield expectations on most grass species. This, combined with high demand over the past 12 months, has all but ensured a continued seed shortage in the marketplace.

There was, FINALLY, a good and steady rain mid-June that may help some of the later maturing species like turf tall fescues and perennial ryegrasses. Recently though, the Willamette Valley and much of the Pacific Northwest encountered record high temperatures hitting 115 F+. At 115 F, that represents 30 degrees above normal and 10 degrees higher than the previous record high. At those temperatures, plants (already stressed from drought) can begin shutting down their maturation. Even irrigation was not enough to properly regulate those temperatures. Therefore, whatever gains from the late rains have likely been negated by record heat. Instead of fields drying down slowly, the extreme temperatures and lack of humidity caused fields to seemingly dry down overnight. Speeding up the drying process can lead to lighter and lower viability seed than otherwise could have been harvested under normal dry-down scenarios.

Tall fescue yields, especially those not irrigated (65-70% of total Oregon production), will be down more than what even a normal "down" year would be. Even the irrigated fields in Oregon will likely see reduced yields. The irrigation systems

ADVANTAGES OF NOT OVERSEEDING:

- 1. Golf course has been overseeded 20+ consecutive years, except for 1 or 2 holes each year. Hole #1 never skipped; Most holes only skipped once.
- Poa Annua and goosegrass becoming major infestations on overseed areas.
- Desert areas around tee complexes need major cleanup, thinning.
- Sand traps need cleaning and addition of more sand.
- No loss of play from end of September to November 1. Great conditions from March into next summer-No transition issues.
- Firmer, drier golf course year-round (depending on winter rains).

ELIMINATING POA ANNUA FROM FAIRWAYS/APPROACHES

#3 Approach Poa Annua infestation February 2020. Approach overseeded 10+ consecutive years.



#5 Green Fairway No Poa Annua February 2020. Fairway was not overseed Fall 2019.



DISADVANTAGES OF NOT OVERSEEDING:

- 1. When the fairways go dormant from mid December through January and February, heavy golf cart traffic will wear out fairways. Temperatures and winter rains will determine how much wear occurs. Management of traffic will help alleviate wear.
- 2. Last winter showed the greens desiccate quickly resulting in dead grass around edges. Greens will need to be irrigated more to maintain moisture levels which could lead to wet surrounds. Solution will be using more wetting agents to retain moisture and using hoses to syringe greens instead of relying only on sprinkler heads.

OTHER COURSES NOT OVERSEEDING:

- Fall 2020:
 1. Mountain View Saddlebrooke for third year in a row.
 2. Star Pass 9 holes.
 3. Randolph Golf Course, City of Tucson.
- Fall 2021:
 - Preserve Golf Club
 - Saddlebrooke Ranch.
- Cactus and Pine GCSA sent out a poll to all golf courses to determine how many golf courses in Arizona are not overseeding this year. Results have not been released yet.
- Seed vendors are saying many courses are not overseeding or reducing acreage significantly due to price increase, seed quality issues, water allotment decreases and price hikes.

BIGGEST CHALLENGES WITH NOT OVERSEEDING FAIRWAYS:

- 1. Traffic management from mid-December to first of March. If golf course receives some winter rains the combination of golf carts and wet conditions will lead to compacted and thin conditions. Possible solutions are alternating holes with cart path restrictions. Regulating entry and exit points more frequently to divert “cattle trails”.
- 2. Painting all fairways, greens and green surrounds before play. Paint will still be wet so could stain tires, balls, shoes. Only time to spray is early morning before play since rounds last until dark during winter. Possibly have carts in the roughs for a couple hours to allow paint to dry in fairways.

WHAT CAN GOLFERS DO TO HELP:

- 1. Be supportive of this decision. This decision was made for the long-term health of the golf course and provide a golf course with excellent year-round conditions.
- 2. Follow golf cart traffic signs and markers. Keep all four tires on the cart paths near the greens. Don't drive in areas showing excess wear.
- 3. Divot mix with seed will be used only on overseeded tees. Use sand only divot mix on the rest of the golf course.
- 4. Start getting "Adopt a Hole" program active again. People to fill divots on fairways, fix ball marks, pick up broken tees, etc...