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Harbour Town Golf Links made up of seven different types of grass

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While nearly 150 of the world's best golfers will tee it up at Harbour Town Golf Links this week, the course has been closed to the general public since April 5, a move that gives the course time to heal while also giving its grounds crew room to roam. And when that crew gets in motion, plenty of the time is spent caring for Harbour Town's variety of grasses.

There are seven different types of grass on Harbour Town Golf Links -- five warm-season grasses and two for cooler seasons. The tee boxes consist of Celebration Bermuda with some TifSports Bermuda overseeded with rye.

A few tee boxes also consist of Empire Zoysia that has not been overseeded. Harbour Town's infamous tiny greens are made up of TifEagle Bermuda overseeded with Poa Trivialis, a type of Bluegrass. TifEagle is a relatively new hybrid grass (it was released in 1998) that maintains its density, accepts overseeding well and maintains its color longer into the fall after enduring the summer heat. The fairway and, of course, the rough are both made up of 419 Bermuda overseeded with Rye, grasses typical for Southern golf courses.

The different kinds of grass all have something in common -- they're sturdy, warm-season grasses that tolerate heat and heal quickly. That's one reason why no major repairs were needed when 5 inches of rain fell on the region April 1 and then 2 more inches came down Monday night.

Harbour Town's course superintendent Jonathan Wright -- who is taking over for the now-retired Gary Snyder, whom he worked under for 12 years -- normally has a cast of 16 employees overseeing the course. That total is closer to 40 this week, as the course not only needed to be reinforced against the recent rain, but to also keep it manicured to perfection while both players and patrons make their way around the grounds.

"It kind of put us behind a little bit as far as some of our spraying applications, touching up pine straw beds and mulch beds," Wright said. "It kind of helped me a little bit, hurt a little bit, as well. But it was nothing real significant. Just normal touch-ups after that. Nothing too bad."

GRASSES OF HARBOUR TOWN

There are seven different types of grass on Harbour Town Golf Links -- five warm-season grasses and two for cooler seasons. Here's how the course breaks down:

Tee box -- Celebration Bermuda with some TifSports Bermuda overseeded with Rye. A few tee boxes also consist of Empire Zoysia that has not been overseeded.

Greens -- TifEagle Bermuda overseeded with Poa Trivialis, a type of Bluegrass.

Fairway -- 419 Bermuda overseeded with Rye.

Rough -- 419 Bermuda overseeded with Rye.

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