



No Till Planting Method

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Step #1

- Kill existing turf with at least two applications of Roundup and Fusilade. Split applications by twenty-one to thirty days. Wait five days after the last application to disturb the plant. The golf course can remain in play during this process.
- Recommended tank mix:
 - Roundup Pro Max - 96oz
 - Fusilade II - 24oz
 - Quest (water conditioning w/ ammonium sulfate) - 32oz
 - Spreader Sticker - non ionic surfactant - 16ozMix and apply in 50 gallons of water per acre.



Step #1 cont.

- For areas like small tee tops, the spray application should be made by hand for cleaner results.
- For fairway borders and approaches, use a spray hawk for a more accurate pattern.



Step #2

- Once you are satisfied that the existing turf is dead, lower your mowers and scalp off the top growth as close to the ground as you can. Blowoff or sweep up the clippings.
- Aggressively verticut the surface in at least two directions and remove the debris.
- Spot spray any new growth from remnant grass as it appears.



Step #3

- The area to be planted should be core aerified at this stage. Use $\frac{3}{4}$ inch tines on two inch centers if possible. The idea is to bring as much soil to the surface as possible. This helps create a sprig bed to facilitate soil to sprig contact.
- Aerification should be done just prior to planting so the soil remains on the surface when the planting takes place.



Step #4

- Time to plant. The sprigs will be delivered on the morning of the day they will be planted. We normally ship in 4500 bushel trailer loads as seen here.
- You will need a clean, hard surface to dump the sprigs on. Preferably concrete or asphalt. If you are dropping the sprigs on the ground, make sure there are no off-type grasses to contaminate the sprigs as they are loaded for planting.



Step #4 cont.

Machine Planting:

We use a traditional machine planter to plant our sprigs. The average planting rate for the no-till method is 800 bushels to the acre. The machine covers the area twice at 400 bushels per pass to insure thorough coverage. We can plant up to 10 acres per day using this method.

Sod-to-sprig planting: We can also plant using the sod-to-sprig method where big roll sod is loaded on a machine and shredded onto the surface as it traverses the planting area. We can plant up to 5 acres per day using this method. This is a more expensive method because it is more labor intensive than machine planting.



Step #4 cont.

Hand planting:

Small areas like tee tops and greens' approaches are planted by hand. The sprigs are loaded onto carts and taken to the areas to be planted. Workers then distribute the sprigs evenly by hand over the planting surface at an equivalent bushel rate to the machine planter application.



Step #4 cont.

Hand planting:

A small tractor/planter is then used to cut in and roll the sprigged area. Hand planting is done by the planting crew in conjunction with machine planting so that each golf hole is completed at the same time. This allows the golf course staff to irrigate the planted areas more quickly, which assures the sprigs remain viable.



Step #5 & #6

- **Irrigation:** Immediately following planting, the golf course staff should turn on the irrigation. The planted area should be saturated to the point of standing water. Once saturated, the system should run hourly with at least two rotations per head during daylight hours. The surface should be constantly moist (glistening) for the first seven days after planting.
- **Rolling:** The golf course staff should have a large double drum roller on hand to roll all planted surfaces in at least one direction after initial irrigation cycle is completed. This will help smooth disturbed areas and insure sprig-to-soil contact.



Step #7

- **Grow-in:**

After seven days the sprigs should be rooted. The irrigation cycle can be reduced depending on your conditions. The root zone should be kept moist but not saturated.

Monitor for worm activity once new leaf tissue begins to emerge. Feeding damage at this point can be a significant setback.



Step #7 cont.

- **Fertilization:**

At day seven you can start your fertilizer program. We recommend that you provide at least one pound of nitrogen and potassium per thousand square feet per week in a quick release form like ammonium sulfate and sulfate of potash. Consult your suppliers for a customized program to best fit your conditions.



Step #7 cont.

- **Top dressing:**

By week five you should have 70% coverage or better. This is a great time to top dress if you can. This is not cheap and it is not mandatory, but it helps level the surface and fill in any pitting. It also helps firm up the surface and get it ready for play.



Step #7 cont.

- **Detail work:**

By week six you should be ready to start fine tuning things. Some sod work may be necessary in areas that have washed or not grown in for whatever reason. Edge any overgrowth into bunkers along cart paths, etc., level irrigation heads and get ready to reopen the golf course.



Finished Product

- By week eight you should be ready to open the golf course. Some clubs choose to wait until week ten to give the new turf more time to mature so that it can better handle the heavy traffic resulting from pent up demand. This decision is up to the Golf Course Superintendent and the club and should be made based on what is best for the new grass.



Pros & Cons

- **Pros:**

- Economical - can be done for \$2500 to \$3000 per acre including grow-in cost.
- Provides a more consistent playing surface than a mixed stand of various grasses.
- Better appearance than a mixed stand of various grasses.

- **Cons:**

- Expensive - the golf course has to be closed for up to 12 weeks.
- Does not address other issues such as; drainage problems, layering, unevenness due to settling, washouts, etc., root competition, shade.
- Requires a lot of water and good irrigation coverage which is not always available.