

The Santaluz Club — Pure Distinction Bentgrass Grow-In San Diego, California

Contracted to oversee the grow-in and establishment of 21 Pure Distinction bentgrass putting greens at the prestigious Santaluz Club in San Diego. Managed the project from initial seeding through establishment, working directly onsite beginning the week of seeding.

The project presented significant agronomic challenges due to the reuse of the existing 24-year-old greens mix, which was tilled to a depth of 4" and retained as the rootzone profile. Elevated clay and silt content, combined with long-term compaction and organic matter accumulation, created substantial infiltration and percolation challenges during establishment of the first 11 greens.

Through proactive diagnosis and hands-on remediation — including hand spiking, moisture management adjustments and pre-germinated seed applications — all initial greens were successfully established despite difficult profile conditions. Approximately one month post-seeding, 5/8" solid tine aerification was performed to improve drainage and water movement throughout the profile.

Following identification of the infiltration limitations, a modified preparation protocol was implemented for the remaining 10 greens prior to seeding. This included solid tine aerification, deep tine Sand Pro cultivation and coco mat floating before seeding. These adjustments significantly improved infiltration, drainage consistency and overall germination performance during the second phase of the project.

The overall renovation project also included Capillary Concrete bunker installation, laser-leveled tee boxes, extensive drainage improvements on two fairways, replacement of all irrigation heads, and a course design completed by Rees Jones, Inc with lead designer Greg Muirhead, all of which were completed concurrently with the grow-in operations.

All 21 Pure Distinction bentgrass greens were successfully established at Santaluz Club.