

TURF GRASS UPDATE

In the months to come, August thru September, we will be spraying the lawns to eradicate Kikuyu Grass. This will result in noticeable brown areas through out the village. The program includes two applications of turf herbicide designed to kill the Kikuyu grass and not the cool season species that we are presently cultivating. This is an annual component of our turf maintenance program.

The results of these applications are pronounced brown areas throughout the turf areas of the village as the targeted Kikuyu Grass dies.

The fallout from these brown areas is a flood of calls and green sheets to the Administration Office for irrigation repairs. Please, try to make sure an area is actually dry before turning in a green sheet. The added green sheets result in a slowed response time to all green sheets because of the added volume and the manpower required to investigate unwarranted work orders.

In closing let me recap the history of the lawn spraying program. We started in 2005, when a decision was made to eliminate the Kikuyu Grass. At the time the village was over 80% Kikuyu Grass. The thatching habit of the Kikuyu Grass was turning sidewalks into "bird baths and covering sprinklers faster than then they could be raised. There are over 45,000 sprinklers in the village. In addition the lawn was always brown. In the summer it grew fast and was always scalped and in the winter it went dormant. It was also very costly to maintain mowing equipment. Something had to be done.

A decision was made to eliminate the Kikuyu Grass. Chemical renovation was the most cost effective way of doing this. Chemical renovation is spraying the lawns with a herbicide that would kill the Kikuyu Grass but not harm the desired species. Then over seed the areas with a desired species.

What you see now is the result of a very intense eradication program at the start and an annual maintenance program to keep the Kikuyu at bay plus an annual over seed program to fill in areas where the Kikuyu Grass was killed and areas that have been weakened over the summer season.

Just a reminder, during the first week of the over seed program, usually mid October the sprinklers will go one twice a day to help begin the germination process of the new seed.