

Fine Fescue at Chambers Bay and the 2015 U.S. Open Championship



Some Background

- Opened in 2008
- Owned and operated by Pierce County
- Former sand and gravel mine
- 1000 acre park system
- Built to host major championships (specifically the U.S. Open)
- Wall-to-wall fine fescue



The Progression



Winter of 2014/15

- Fungicide program
- Fertilizer program
- Traffic management
- Turf covers



March



- Agronomic preparations began
- FOX broadcast and technology test
- Began releasing play restrictions gradually
- Construction of infrastructure began

April

- Seattle University Invitational
- Grandstand construction
- Media Day
- Agronomic programs ramping up
- Construction intensifying
- First practice rounds
- Opened up to more golf traffic...pace of play becomes an issue



May



- Maintenance intensifies
 - Irrigation
 - Mowing/rolling
 - Bunker detail
 - Rough maintenance
 - Policing of FOX and everyone else
- Golf traffic goes full throttle...protection efforts intensify
- Maintenance practice runs...staff preparations
- Weather changes
- 30 day agronomy plan
- Support equipment arrives
- Course closes

June

- On-course construction gets crazy
- FOX gets crazy
- Golf course preparation gets CRAZY
- The USGA arrives in full force
- Set up walk-throughs
- Details, details, details...
- Practice rounds
- The media arrives
- Volunteers arrive!
- Still no rain...and It's HOT!



#17 on June 16th













July

- Rest
- Deconstruction
- Turn the water on
- Fertility/wetting agents
- Weather still an issue



June 17th



July 17



June 21st



July 16th



FAQ's

- Why didn't you water?
- Those greens were dead...why'd you do that?
- Why was there so much Poa annua?
- Why didn't they plant bentgrass?
- What happened with Snedeker's putt?
- What would you do differently?

