

Desert Mountain, Cochise Course Gets Highest PGA Rating EVER

Shawn Emerson is the Director of Agronomy for the six courses at Desert Mountain, located in the high Sonoran Desert of Arizona. Desert Mountains' Cochise Course was home to the **2012 Charles Schwab Cup Championship**.

Prior to the tournament, Shawn sat down with his long time vendor partner, Brian Smith of **Arizona Sports Turf**. Over the years, Brian and Shawn have worked together developing a variety of innovative solutions to various agronomic issues on the courses. Shawn explained to Brian that in preparation for the 2012 Charles Schwab Cup Championship, the members wanted the Cochise course overseeded, yet the PGA expected a dry course for improved playability.

***"I want a course
that looks like
Augusta but plays
like the US Open."***

Shawn believes that you shouldn't have to turn the water off to have a good playing surface and you shouldn't have to turn the water on to keep it looking green. Shawn told Brian that his goal was to have a course that "looks like Augusta but plays like the US Open." After listening to Shawn, Brian suggested a new line of products from Performance Nutrition® that were safe, easy to handle and would not need to be watered in.

Considering Brian's suggestions, Shawn decided to move ahead with a program on his 30 acres of native soil (decomposed granite) fairways. A sixty day regimen was followed to ensure that the turf could withstand the stress of the tournament, as well as stay in good condition for member play when the tournament was over.



7th Hole

Desert Mountain Cochise Course



"It was the best condition golf course I ever played."

Shawn made six, bi-weekly applications of 16 ounces of KaPre® ExAlt, 0.5 gallons of KaPre® Germin8, and 4 pounds of Nutrol® per acre. The results from the use of Performance Nutrition®'s products exceeded Shawn's expectations and he felt his aforementioned goal was accomplished. In fact, one tournament player stated; "It was the best condition golf course I ever played." The PGA confirmed that statement giving the course the highest rating - ever.

The tournament players echoed the sentiments of the PGA regarding the overall condition of the Cochise course. Below are just a few quotes from some of the players:

"....the course is magnificent. I'm sure you've heard that from a lot of players. The fairways are like carpets." Jay Haas

"It's a great golf course, wonderful layout and in really, really good condition." Bernhard Langer

After discussion with a trusted superintendent friend of his, Shawn decided to try the Performance Soil Treatment™, and the Performance Foliar Treatment™ on the Chiricahua Course. Shawn is very impressed with the results he is getting from these programs as well. Overall, Shawn is very pleased with the effect Performance Nutrition® products have on the turf and plans to incorporate them into more of his course management programs.

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LidoChem, Inc.
Performance Nutrition Division
20 Village Court
Hazlet, NJ 07730
Ph: 732 888 8000 • Fax 732 264 2751
www.performancefertilizers.com
info@lidochem.com