

Cypress Lakes – Jewel of the Hunter

Cypress Lakes, Hunter Valley NSW

The Hunter Valley is one of NSW's premier wine producing regions and being only 90 minutes drive from the Sydney CBD, it is also a recreational retreat for many city dwellers.

One of the first resort golfing facilities to capitalise on the emerging tourist industry in The Hunter Valley, was Cypress Lakes Resort. Constructed back in 1991, Cypress Lakes now boasts an impressive list of facilities – an 18 hole championship golf course, a stately members club house with 5 star food and beverage facilities, over 200 villas terraced around the mountain side with sweeping views, a luxury health spa, a conference centre and their own vineyard planted in and around the golf course.

Merv Haywood has been superintendent at Cypress Lakes since the first soil was turned in 1991. He and his team have carved an excellent track out of some very stony ground. The golf course is a challenging layout, but never more challenging than when Merv hosts his peers in an annual superintendents challenge each November. For this event Merv ensures the tees are back as far as they can go, with the holes cut into the most treacherous positions on super slick putting greens. "You don't want to make it too easy for them", jests Merv with a laugh.

Cypress Lakes golf course is nestled into the landscape of the Hunter Valley like it was meant to be there. Pennisetum sp. native grasses are planted extensively around the course, along with indigenous Eucalyptus trees and other native vegetation that enhances the sweeping views without detracting from the natural beauty of the Hunter Valley.



As for the turf quality, Cypress Lakes improves every year. Using a diligent TGR program, Poa annua is kept in check enabling bentgrass to dominate the putting greens and subsequently withstand the extremes of the valleys winter cold and summer heat. couchgrass fairways and tees are kept clean from annual grassy weeds using PreMax 22-0-5 and Premax 14-0-11, Scotts pre-emergent herbicide with controlled release fertiliser. Another feature of the turf quality development is the constant control of invading kikuyu and the simultaneous spread of the couchgrass out beyond the line of the fairways into the rough.

The couchgrass at Cypress Lakes is treated like royalty as far as nutrition goes, with a combination of water soluble, slow release and controlled release fertilisers. And deservedly so, with a divot in some fairways exposing shallow rocky subsoil, the turf cover needs all the help it can get.

Merv and his team have won the admiration of members and visitors for the manner in which they present this facility week in week out, and Scotts are proud to support them with quality products and technical backup. Keep up the good work guys.