



FIELD REPORT NO. 08

The Moveable Cover

One Cover. Two Seasons.

Jason Sigmund

DIRECTOR OF AGRONOMY • SUN VALLEY, IDAHO

PROTECT • GROW • ACCELERATE

Every Course • Every Winter • Every Story is Different

THE CHALLENGE

What Winter Leaves Behind

At nearly six thousand feet in the central Idaho mountains, winter does not simply pause the golf season — it damages it. Months under snow and ice leave the fairways scarred, and the cold hangs on long into spring, when days barely reach the mid-40s and nights still drop into the 30s.

WINTERKILL

ICE DAMAGE

DESICCATION

COLD, SLOW SPRING



THE TRANSFORMATION

Green, Weeks Early

THE RESULT

“We’ve been able to germinate seed when temps are only in the mid-40s — and the 30s at night. It speeds recovery up by two to four weeks.”

JASON SIGMUND — DIRECTOR OF AGRONOMY

Clear permeable covers build a warm microclimate over the cold soil — letting light through while turning weather that would stall establishment into a head start.

THE OPERATION

Off the Greens, Onto the Fairways

Through winter, the clear permeable covers do the job they were built for — protecting the greens beneath snow and ice while still letting light and air reach the turf. But the real story starts when they come off. Each spring, the crew pulls the same covers and re-lays them across the winter-killed fairways, building a warm microclimate that coaxes seed to germinate while the air is still barely above freezing.

“It is a lot of work,” Jason notes — the covers are moved, staged, and managed by hand across the property. But the method turns the coldest, slowest weeks of the year into productive ones, and it is the reason recovery arrives weeks ahead of schedule.



A clear permeable cover laid in on a putting surface — the warm microclimate at work.



A protected green holds through the deep-winter freeze.

WINTER GREEN PROTECTION

COLD-SOIL GERMINATION

MICROCLIMATE WARMING

What Jason Saw

9

OUT OF 10

Extended cover, faster recovery

Where greens took real winter damage, holding the covers on longer measurably sped their recovery — the covers earn their keep most on the surfaces that need them.

Germination in the cold

Seed established on fairways with daytime highs in the mid-40s and nights in the 30s — conditions that would normally stall grow-in entirely.

A trade-off worth managing

“There are several greens we do not cover, and they come off dormancy slower. But there are times when we pull the covers and the greens are too lush — and they get hit hard by the cold.” Covering is a judgment call, timed to the year.

Green at take-off

“We always have pretty green turf when taking off.” Two to four weeks of reclaimed season, every spring.



Spring on the recovered fairways — mountains still holding snow.

Ready Before the Freeze

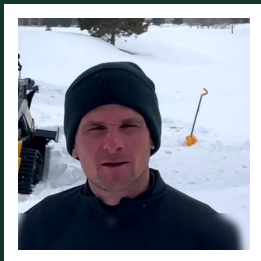


A method this hands-on only works if the covers are already on the property, sized and staged, before the first hard freeze. The greens-to-fairways move happens in a narrow spring window; there is no time to order into it once the cold breaks.

Planning ahead of the season is what makes the two-to-four-week jump possible. It takes the pressure off the calendar, gives the crew room to work, and turns a scramble into a routine. Plan early, and the covers are ready the moment the course needs them.

THE PERSPECTIVE

“The experience has always been good with your team — I feel like you actually care about the customer, which is rare these days.”



Jason Sigmund

DIRECTOR OF AGRONOMY · SUN VALLEY, IDAHO

Asked whether he would recommend the system, the answer was yes — with the honesty of someone who has run it for years and knows exactly when, and where, to put a cover down.

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*One cover. Two seasons.
Weeks of the season, reclaimed.*



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We'd love to share yours. · GreenJacket.com

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