



The USGA Green Section Weekly Update

April 23, 2010

Golfers: Why Do They Water The Greens While You Are Trying To Play Golf?

A USGA Green Section Video

by Jim Moore, agronomist, USGA Green Section



Can't they water at night?

Most courses have automatic irrigation systems that allow the course to be watered at night. So why do you occasionally see the maintenance staff applying water on the greens and other areas of the course during the day while play is underway? Watch this short video to find out.

[Watch this video](#)

Topdressing Fairways: More Is Better

USGA Sponsored Research You Can Use

by Jim Skorulski, Dr. Jason Henderson, and Nathaniel A. Miller



Fairway topdressing is gaining popularity across the country

For years, golf course superintendents in the Pacific Northwest have benefited from sand topdressing on wet and poorly drained fairway and rough areas. The sand applications, over time, firmed the wet surfaces for improved maintenance and playability. Other benefits observed from topdressing included a reduction in earthworm castings, improved rooting, earlier spring green-up, and a possible reduction in water use. Golf courses across North America have turned to fairway topdressing in hopes of achieving similar benefits. But as the program gains in popularity, there remain some unanswered

questions, such as, what are the effects of sand type and application rates on the success of the program?

[Read this article](#)

Regional Update - North Central Region

Consider Your Options

By Bob Vavrek, Senior Agronomist - North Central Region



North Central Region

The level of frustration is ramping up for superintendents who have experienced significant winter injury on greens each spring during the past several years. Yogi Berra... It's déjà vu all over again.

Your old greens have mucho Poa annua and poor surface drainage. Water pools and freezes on greens during winter. Poa dies. Greens are seeded with bentgrass. Greens are kept open for play during recovery. Opened greens are cut short and infrequently irrigated. Bentgrass germinates and then disappears. Poa eventually fills into the thin areas. By fall, greens have mucho Poa and poor surface drainage. Water pools and freezes on greens during winter. Poa dies.....

Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.

[Read this update](#)

Regional Update - Mid-Continent Region

Slow to Recover

by Bud White , Director - Mid-Continent Region



Mid- Continent Region

From my viewpoint, turf health has been the primary concern at golf courses this spring. Excessively cloudy days until about April 1st have slowed bentgrass root development and bermudagrass recovery. The wet winter also produced a proliferation of weeds this spring, primarily in roughs and slopes. This was due to a breakdown of fall pre-emergent materials, and because of the rain and an inability to apply post-emergent herbicides. On top of that, the ground was too wet for sprayer traffic. Mowing these areas now will quickly mask and eliminate the winter annuals.

[Read this update](#)

New Webcast Recording

Winterkill Impact - Evaluation, Recovery and Procedures

by Charles "Bud" White, director Mid-Continent Region

The winter weather has left its mark on many bermudagrass courses in the form of winterkill. This webcast included valuable information to help course officials and golf course superintendents understand the causes of the injury and better protect against problems in the future.

No special software is required to listen to this webcast. Simply click on the link below. **You do not need to enter a Recording Key.** Select the Microsoft Office Live Meeting Replay option for faster viewing.



Winter injury

[Listen to this webcast recording](#)

USGA Green Section Survey Results

Bermudagrass Winter Injury

by James F. Moore

The winter of 2010 is proving to be one of the worst in many years on bermudagrass courses all across the country. Green, tees, and fairways were damaged to the point of requiring significant replanting for many sites. The survey included in last week's update received very good participation with more than 225 responses to date. To see the results of this survey select the link below.

[View Bermudagrass Damage survey results](#)

Coming Next Week - Survey of Damage to *Poa annua* Areas

The winter was tough on *Poa annua* areas too!

by Green Section Staff

Last week's survey on the impact of the winter of 2010 on bermudagrass courses provided valuable information to golf course superintendents, course officials, and golfers regarding the incidence of winter injury across the southern United States. Our agronomists in the northern portions of the country are seeing similar damage on courses with *Poa annua* greens, tees, fairways, and other areas. Next week's update will give you the opportunity to weigh in on the damage experienced at your course. Be sure to forward this update to anyone that you feel would like to participate in the survey.



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