

The USGA Green Section Record



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Where Would You Cut First?

Put Yourself in the Golf Course Superintendent's Shoes and Take This Quick Survey

by the Green Section Staff

The economy has forced many golf course managers to reevaluate priorities when it comes to course maintenance. If the decision was yours (and it is for many of you), how would you reduce costs? Where would you reduce spending first, and which areas would be last to feel the pinch?

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Does the Grass Know the Cost?

By [Stanley Zontek](#), [David Oatis](#), [Darin Bevard](#), [Keith Happ](#), [Jim Skorulski](#), [Bob Vavrek](#), and [Adam Moeller](#)

Today's golf course superintendent has a huge range of products to choose from for turfgrass fertilization. Competition brings better products, better service on these products, and lower costs. In today's challenging economic times, anything we can do to reduce or control costs is good, especially if the health, appearance, and playability of your turf is not compromised. After all, the vast majority of golfers still want and expect to play a well-conditioned golf course. The challenge for many golf course superintendents is to provide these conditions at a lower cost.



This article considers options that may do just that. It is a basic discussion about fertilizers. Does the grass really know the difference among the myriad fertilizer products available to today's turf manager? Does a high-priced fertilizer produce better grass? Should you consider less expensive fertilizers that are easy to use, provide the response you want, and cost less? Let's find out. [Read the rest of this article](#)

Summertime Cultivations Ramp Up In Florida

by [Todd Lowe](#), *agronomist, Florida Region*



The summer months are almost always slow for most Florida golf courses as few golfers are willing to brave the near-100-degree heat and stifling humidity. However, golf course staff are very busy, since the bermudagrass grows at an accelerated pace at this time. In addition to continual mowing, golf courses are busy with annual cultivation programs, including verticutting, circle mowing, scalping, sand topdressing, and core aeration. [Read on to learn more about summer cultivation practices.](#)

Buckle Your Seatbelts And Strap On Your Helmets, The Season Has Begun!

by [David A. Oatis](#), *director, Northeast Region*

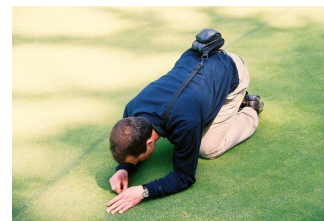
When the weather data from a year is compiled, it often can be averaged out to suggest that the year was normal, but there is no such thing as a normal year for turfgrass managers in this region. Every year is different and has its own character, and each provides its own set of lessons learned. Unfortunately, there are probably more lessons that need to be learned than there are years to learn them in, and with pest problems and diseases constantly evolving, we routinely face new challenges. What will they be this year? If the last month is any indication, annual bluegrass weevils are likely to be a problem for the remainder of the year, and with the recent heat and elevated humidity levels, you can count on anthracnose and summer patch to make life miserable. Anthracnose outbreaks already have occurred at a number of courses, and I can just about smell the summer patch infecting the turf. [Read the rest of this article.](#)

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