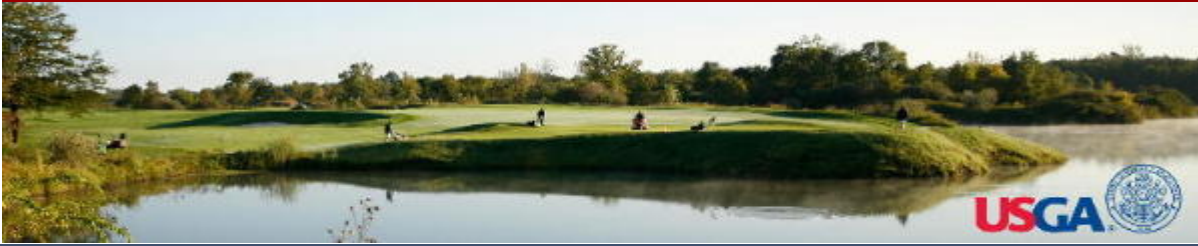


Weekly Update



May 21, 2010

Q&A With Patrick Gross, U.S. Open Agronomist

Preparations for the 2010 U.S. Open

by the USGA staff

California-based Patrick Gross is the director of the USGA's Green Section Southwest Region and will serve as the championship agronomist for the 110th U.S. Open at Pebble Beach (Calif.) Golf Links. Gross, who also served as the championship agronomist for the 2008 U.S. Open at Torrey Pines in San Diego, recently chatted with USGA communications staff writer David Shefter about agronomic preparations for the upcoming U.S. Open:

How are things looking for the 2010 U.S. Open?

Gross: Fantastic. They're in great shape [and] ahead of schedule. We're really comfortable with all the preparations and programs.

Were there any unforeseen weather conditions or other issues that left anyone concerned about the prep work for the U.S. Open?

Gross: Not at all. Their worry every year - and it's not just for the U.S. Open - are the waves crashing against that sea wall from the winter storms along the 18th fairway. It will kill grass on the tee and affect the fairway, but they are prepared. They've done different things to counteract the situation, and they go in the late winter/early spring and sod any damaged areas.



Patrick Gross, using a Stimpmeter to read the speed of a green, also served as the U.S. Open agronomist at Torrey Pines in 2008 (John Mummert/USGA)

[Read the rest of this interview](#)

Neshanic Valley Making A Difference

Balancing management programs that not only protect the environment but also keep the course in proper condition

by [David Shefter](#), USGA

Neshanic Station, N.J. -
The environmental
reminders at Neshanic
Valley Golf Course are

omnipresent.

They begin the moment you enter the 420-acre, 27-hole facility in central New Jersey.

There are plaques in both the pro shop and maintenance area, as well as notations on the scorecard and posted signs on the golf course, which also includes a nine-hole short course and expansive learning center with a 16,000-square-foot putting green.



Neshanic Valley was certified last year as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. (Courtesy Neshanic Valley)

Certified in 2009 as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary, Neshanic Valley is one of only two courses in the Garden State to be cited as River Friendly by the New Jersey Water Supply Authority. And the past two years, the course has been formally recognized for Environmental Stewardship by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

"It's great," said Andrew Hojnowski, Neshanic Valley's manager of golf course maintenance. "Any kind of good publicity we can get is good, especially being a county operation. We're always under fire. We're always in the spotlight. Golf courses in general are under fire."

[Read the rest of this article](#)

Bermudagrass Disease Update

Live Webcast on Thursday, May 27th, at 10:00 AM Eastern

by the USGA Green Section

With bermudagrass across much of the country weakened by a hard winter, disease problems are likely to be more prevalent and more difficult to control. In this free USGA Green Section webcast, three prominent turfgrass pathologists will give an update on important diseases of bermudagrass and offer helpful programs for controlling them throughout the year. Speakers and their respective topics include:

Dr. Bruce Martin, Clemson University Professor of Turfgrass Pathology
"Effective Fungicide Programs for Bermudagrass Putting Greens"

Dr. Lee Miller, University of Missouri Extension Turfgrass Pathologist
"Managing Fairy Rings"

Dr. Phil Harmon, University of Florida Assistant Professor of Plant Pathology
"Disease Trends in the Southeast"

This webcast is free to all but you will need to install the Microsoft Live Meeting CLIENT software on your computer. Please be sure to click this link to check your system well prior to the meeting start time. **[Check your system](#)**

Once you have checked your system, click this link to join the webcast up to 30 minutes prior to the 10:00 Eastern start time. **[Join the webcast](#)**

Ante Up

An Update from the North Central Region

By [Bob Vavrek](#), senior agronomist, North Central Region



**North Central
Region**

Out of sight...out of mind. Addressing the daily annoyance of ant activity across tees and along putting surface perimeters during the hot weather of July and August is not a priority for most superintendents at a time when current concerns such as frost delays, sluggish recovery from winter damage, and a heavy crop of *Poa annua* seedheads take center stage. Nevertheless, the most effective way to limit nuisance ant activity later this season is to initiate a control program just as soon as mounds appear this spring.

Just to avoid confusion, this update discusses control strategies for the mild mannered turfgrass ants up North and not the notorious fire ants of the South.

[Read this update](#)

Wet, Dry, Warm and Cold...We Have Already Had It All!

An Update from the Mid-Atlantic Region

By [Keith Happ](#), senior agronomist, Mid-Atlantic Region



**Mid-Atlantic
Region**

It doesn't take long for Mother Nature to change the weather patterns. The year started with very wet conditions from rainfall and melting snow, but it didn't take long for the soils to dry down. In fact, many areas of the region are extremely dry. This has challenged turf managers to maintain good soil moisture without over watering. Although some drought stress early in the season is okay, in fact preferred, too much stress can be a bad thing, resulting in turf that is predisposed to disease or other pests later in the year. As the saying goes, "It's much better to manage on the dry side, but be in a position to irrigate if necessary." If things get too wet, there are few options to remove the excess. Besides, a drier golf course plays better.

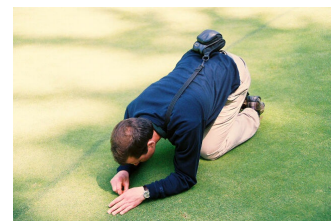
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