

The USGA Green Section Record



November 12, 2010 -- Volume 48, Number 23

Sending a Message

The fuel that runs the engine in any long-term relationship is communication. And sometimes the best words to communicate are as simple as "thank you."

by Robert D. "Bo" Links, USGA Green Section Committeeman



The golf course maintenance staff at the Lake Merced Golf Club. How often do you acknowledge the efforts of the staff at your course?

At Lake Merced Golf Club in Daly City, California, we recently recognized our hard working maintenance staff with a nice article in our monthly newsletter distributed to the entire membership. The article acknowledged a fact that escapes many members - that our maintenance crew includes many fine employees who have spent a lifetime of service at our club. Our superintendent has been with us for 45 years; our first assistant for 26 years; and the majority of their crew have been at Lake Merced more than 15 years. That is quite a record, but their achievements are not measured in years, but by the daily dedication they devote to tending our golf course. These are extremely hard working folks, and they face a variety of changing and challenging conditions every day of the week. As I have explained to more than one member when discussing course conditions: our crew has to battle Mother Nature and she never takes a day off! And yet, day in and day out, our golf course is in superior condition.

[Read on to see the impact of this simple yet effective effort at Lake Merced.](#)

Mother Nature is Talking



A Mid-Atlantic Regional Update

by [Stanley J. Zontek](#), director

I recently drove a few miles along the Skyline Drive in southwestern Virginia to speak at a golf course superintendents association Year End meeting. Normally, in late October the Appalachian Mountains are ablaze in fall colors. If anything, the colors were disappointing. Is this a reflection on this year's weather? The answer is yes.

This is also a disappointing year for many golf courses. The weather had an impact on the health and survival of golf course turfgrass, and the extended period of heat, punctuated by times of wet weather and drought,

affected most all plants. In the case of the trees along Skyline Drive (and probably on your golf course and in your neighborhoods), leaves were dropped early and with less color, mostly due to the drought. Early leaf-drop is a defense mechanism for trees. In the case of turfgrass, it is summer dormancy; or, depending upon the species, even death to that plant. *Poa annua* is, after all, annual bluegrass, and this summer's weather helped remind us of that fact. [Read Stan's suggestions for fall tree care](#)



USGA-Sponsored Research You Can Use

Evaluating Bermudagrass Cultivars for Traffic Tolerance and Recuperative Ability

University of Florida research highlights bermudagrasses that possess better wear tolerance and faster divot recovery.

by *Bradley T. Williams, Dr. Jason K. Kruse, Dr. J. Bryan Unruh, and Dr. Jerry B. Sartain*

For more than 40 years, Tifway (419) has been the industry standard for golf course fairways in the Southeast. Over this time, Tifway has proven to provide good color, density, fine leaf texture, and growth rate. Yet in the past few years, superintendents have started turning to new bermudagrass cultivars that, along with other attributes such as increased shade tolerance, are thought to have higher wear tolerance and faster recovery. However, there is limited research comparing the performance of new bermudagrass cultivars to industry standards. This study was set up to investigate genetic color, density, turf quality, and divot recovery of eight bermudagrass cultivars. In this study, industry standards Tifway, TifSport, Floratex, and Riviera were compared

with newer cultivars Celebration, TifGrand, T11, and Hybrid1. The objectives of this study were to characterize a typical response of these bermudagrass cultivars to varying rates of traffic, establish fertility recommendations for each of the cultivars studied under high- and low-traffic conditions, and determine the influence of fertility and traffic on the recovery rate of each cultivar. [See the results of this study.](#)



A modified Cady traffic simulator was used to apply traffic once per week during the study period.

Bentgrass Management and the Summer of 2010 Recording Now Available

by [Bud White](#), director, Mid-Continent Region

The past summer proved very difficult for bentgrass greens all across the country and particularly for those in hot climates. This webcast provides important insight for both superintendents and non-superintendents regarding what happened and how best to avoid problems in the future.

You can view the recording of this webcast free of charge by clicking on the link that follows. No recording key is required. Although we request your name and e-mail we do not use this information for marketing purposes.

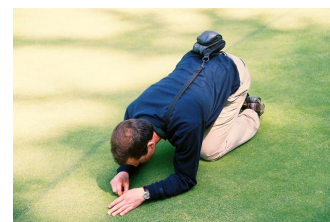
[View the webcast recording.](#)

Green Section Record Archive (digital)

Looking for a previous issue of the *Green Section Record* since it has gone digital?

Would you like to see the digital *Record* issues you missed? Or, maybe you heard about an article or video in a previous update. All of the issues are stored in one convenient location - the Green Section Record Archive.

[Visit the archive](#)



Looking for something?

The USGA Green Section Portal

A Valuable Resource For All, And It's Free

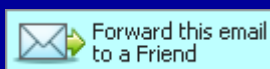
Take a minute to visit the Green Section's portal at <http://gsportal.usga.org> to find information regarding upcoming live webcasts and links to recordings of more than 30 previously-delivered webcasts, and announcements of upcoming USGA Green Section activities, education conferences, and meetings.

[Visit the USGA Green Section Portal](#)

Important Links

[USGA Privacy Policy](#)
[USGA Green Section Home Page](#)
[USGA Staff Contact Information](#)
[Turf Advisory Service Information](#)
[USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Online \(TERO\)](#)

USGA Green Section
P.O. Box 708
Far Hills, NJ 07931-0708
908.234.2300



◆2010 by United States Golf Association◆

Permission to reproduce articles or material in the USGA Green Section Record is granted to newspapers, periodicals, and educational institutions (unless specifically noted otherwise). Credit must be given to the author, the article's title, USGA Green Section Record, and the issue's date. Copyright protection must be afforded. To reprint material in other media, written permission must be obtained from the USGA. In any case, neither articles nor other material may be copied or used for any advertising promotion, or commercial purposes.

Green Section Record (ISSN 2156-5813) is published weekly via electronic mail by the United States Golf Association◆, Golf House, Far Hills, NJ 07931.