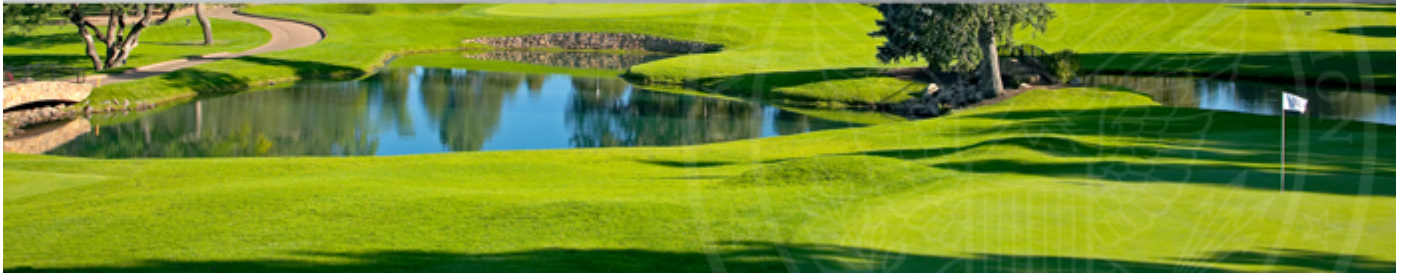




GREEN SECTION RECORD



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For The Golfer

**You will never see this on television.
Unfortunately, you might during your next round.**

by [James F. Moore](#), director

It should never happen - but it does. Someone gets mad over missing a putt and takes a swipe at the ball or at the green and leaves a large divot in the putting surface. So what do you do? It depends somewhat on who you are. If you are the course superintendent or one of the maintenance staff and you see someone do this you might be tempted to move the player *out of bounds*. But what if you are a golfer? What are your options?



Putting is tough enough without a divot lying between your ball and the hole. What do you do?

The answer can be found by reading [Rule 16 - The Putting Green](#). Specifically, Rule 16-1c is very clear. While a player may repair an old hole plug or damage to the putting green caused by the impact of a ball, any other damage to the putting green must not be repaired if it might assist the player in his subsequent play of the hole.

In a tournament situation, the player could appeal to the committee to declare the damaged area as ground under repair and relief could be granted. It is also worth reviewing the decision [16-1a/13 Line of Putt Damaged Accidentally by Opponent, Fellow-Competitor or Their Caddies](#). This decision addresses the situation in which the player's ball was at rest on the green when the damage occurred on the line of the putt. "In equity (Rule 1-4), the player may have the line of putt he had when his ball came to rest. The line of putt may be restored by anyone."

This decision also states: "If it is not possible to restore the line of putt, the player would be justified in requesting the Committee to grant relief. If the damage is severe enough, the Committee may declare the area to be ground under

repair, in which case the competitor may take relief under [Rule 25-1b\(iii\)](#)."

If a member of the Committee is not readily available you should play the ball as it lies. If you believe that the damage should be considered ground under repair you do have options. In match play, you could choose to take relief but if your opponent does not agree, he can make a claim. In stroke play, you may play two balls under Rule 3-3, one from the original location and another after taking relief. If a claim is made or you play two balls, the Committee must be notified to obtain a final ruling.

You also would be doing the course and your fellow-players a favor by notifying the course management of the damage so it can be repaired.

Some Greenkeeping Lessons Taught in 1935

This article could have been written for the summer of 2011

In March of 1936, Mr. John Monteith Jr. of the Green Section wrote an article for *The Greenkeepers' Reporter* (a very early predecessor to today's GCSAA *Golf Course Management* magazine) about the difficulties experienced by golf courses across the country during the summer of 1935. Monteith sounds like he was visiting courses across the U.S. in 2011. He describes problems and solutions that virtually every superintendent and most golfers can relate to - more than 75 years later! Watering and fertilizing programs, the limitations of the grasses in use, the control of diseases, and even the importance of air movement, are all discussed.



Think fans are a new idea? Read this article - you might be surprised.

Whether you are a golfer, superintendent, or involved in the management of a course in any manner, It will be well worth your time to read this article. Here is a short except to give you an idea.

If one tries to summarize last year's experience in greenkeeping he becomes immediately aware that no single development stands out as new. This can by no means be interpreted as labeling last year as wasted from the standpoint of turf culture. On the contrary the season proved to be decidedly interesting even without any new problems presented from perhaps a slightly new angle or with new intensity.

The extensive loss of turf on many of our golf courses during the past summer naturally made many club members raise the question as to what benefit has been derived from all the educational programs and recent scientific improvements in greenkeeping. The criticisms of greenkeepers and greenkeeping methods that were so prevalent during the past season were generally due to the fact that club members in their turf demands made little attempt to distinguish between progress and perfection. Progress in greenkeeping methods in the past few years was clearly demonstrated by the large number of cases where turf was maintained with little loss during the extremely trying weather conditions that prevailed in many parts of the country during the past season. Perfection in greenkeeping, as, all of us closely connected with turf culture are quick to recognize, is still far in the future.

[Read the entire article](#)

Using Turf Fans In The Northeast

Limited air movement isn't just a Southeast or Transition Zone problem

by [Adam Moeller](#) and Brett Chapin

Imagine yourself playing golf with friends or family on a warm summer day. Everyone is enjoying the game and then you get to that one green. Suddenly the air feels stagnant and hot, you start to sweat more, your clothes stick to your body, and you can't wait to get to the next hole, where there always seems to be a nice cooling breeze. Now imagine staying on that green the whole day, throughout the entire summer, with endless hot, humid days without any relief from a cool breeze. Pretty miserable, right? Well that's exactly what the putting green turf suffers through when it is located in a microclimate that has limited air movement.

The microclimates in which putting greens are located play a major role in the superintendent's ability to produce good golf conditions. Many articles have been published in the Green Section Record about the negative effects that shade have on putting greens, but only a few articles discuss the consequences of poor air movement.



Fans on portable trailers offer flexibility to improve air movement at many green sites.

[Read the rest of this article.](#)

Adam Moeller is an agronomist in the USGA Green Section Northeast Region, and Brett Chapin is the golf course superintendent at Redding Country Club in Redding, Connecticut.

USGA Continues To Support Vital Turfgrass Research

Deciding where the funding goes is a tough but important job

by [Dr. Kimberly Erusha](#), senior director, Green Section

This week, the USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Committee met in Denver, Colorado to discuss nearly 60 research proposals submitted from universities across the country in response to the 2011 call for proposals. More than \$300,000 will be distributed to the final 12-15 project selections. The grants will range up to \$25,000 annually, with the potential to be renewed up to three years.

The research projects are distributed in the areas of integrated turfgrass management, breeding, and product testing. The results of these studies will lead to the development of turfgrass management programs that conserve natural resources, investigate economic impacts, and address quality playing conditions. The USGA has a long-term commitment to improving golf course playing conditions for golfers and supporting scientific research..



The USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Committee meeting in Denver. From left to right, Dr. Paul Rieke, Mr. Jim Moore, Dr. Scott Warnke, Dr. Mike Kenna, Dr. Ali Harivandi, Dr. Kimberly Erusha, Dr. Clark Throssell (photo by Mr. Jim Snow).

Concerned About The Ramifications Of Severe Drought?

This Green Section webcast should be on your schedule!

Date: Friday, August 12, 2011

Time: 10:00 AM Central

by Bud White, director, Mid-Continent Region

It's official...Texas is now suffering through the most severe drought on record, according to John Nielsen-Gammon, the [Texas State Climatologist](#) and professor of atmospheric sciences at Texas A&M University. In fact, the lower Mid-Continent Region is setting records in extreme temperature highs and drought. The hottest day on record was hit in the Texas Panhandle in Borger, Texas at 113°F, and Pecos, Texas, has had no rain since September 23, 2010, which is one of the longest rain-free periods for a U.S. city in recorded history, outside the desert regions of California and Arizona. Not only is Texas affected, but Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, New Mexico, and portions of Kansas are being blasted with these same conditions as well.

Invite your green committee, board members, and staff to be a part of this webcast as we review current conditions, the role of the irrigation system, how to prepare your turfgrass if there's no break in current conditions, turfgrass drought stress in dormancy, surviving potential winter kill, and preparing for spring in 2012. It will be a webcast you can't afford to miss!

Be sure to check next Friday's issue of the *The Record* for connection information to the webcast.

Regional Updates

by the [Green Section staff](#)



Mid-Atlantic Region

Is The Worst Over?

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

It's official, July, 2011 was the hottest month for the number of days above 90 degrees F in Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington, D.C. Seemingly everyone in the country is dealing with oppressive heat and humidity and it has taken a toll on golf course turf.

The following update will pass on a few agronomic points that worked or didn't work this summer (in no special order):

Location, Location, Location. The worst damaged greens were generally located in areas of shade or pockets of poor air circulation. Grass growing in the shade is always weaker than grass growing in full sunlight.

With prolonged heat stress, weaker greens suffered. The solution is simple, clear underbrush, selectively remove trees, or install a fan.

[Read the rest of Stan's points](#)



Florida Region

Growing and Mowing Like Mad

by [Todd Lowe](#), senior agronomist

Mowers are working overtime on many Florida golf courses. Increased rainfall, heat, and humidity have had a significant impact on turf growth and quality. Golf courses that were brown and dormant from drought stress six weeks ago are now quite healthy. In fact, some golf courses are now growing so much that it is difficult to keep up with daily mowing.

Mowing frequency is directly correlated to growth rate. As growth increases, so does the need for frequent mowing and mowers scalping into underlying stems causing turf to become yellow to tan in color. Constant scalping can have a negative impact on golf course aesthetics and turf health. Also, infrequent mowing at this time of year produces an abundance of clippings that must be dragged back into the turf canopy, if not, clumps of clippings will decrease golf course quality and injure the underlying turf through heat stress. Constant and heavy rainfall makes daily mowing difficult as lightning is unsafe for golf course staff.

[Read the rest of Todd's update](#)

We've all heard the phrase "no pain, no gain" as it relates to exercise. The clear message is that improving physical conditioning requires sacrifice and exercise. Based on the USGA championships I've worked during my career, it seems the same can be applied to preparing a course for a high level event.

Once exercise and healthy living become a lifestyle, endurance is improved. Doesn't the same apply to golf turf conditioning and preparing for a big event? If the turf has not been well conditioned in advance, the resulting pain from hosting a big event will be intensified. In the same way, when the turf is not well conditioned in advance it will not handle tough weather - there will be more weakening and potential loss. While there are times to pull back, it is not possible to maintain a permanently pulled back posture and still provide top-notch conditioning for a high level event, especially when weather conditions are harsh.

The underlying message is simple - guard agronomic building blocks (proper mowing, good water management, sound fertilization and healthy microenvironments) so that a solid foundation is in place to maximize quality and dependability when the hard race must be run. Then, beyond a solid foundation, the daily details of course maintenance must be fitted to available resources. The best way to candidly evaluate your foundation and daily maintenance operation is through an on-site visit from your local Green Section agronomist. Professional, candid and confidential feedback on the maintenance operation at your course is money well spent when considering the



July soil temperatures from a course in Richmond, Virginia shows just how hot soil temperatures became along with the air temperatures. With the elevated levels, the roots of cool-season grasses become less functional.



Mowing scalping and clumps of clippings can be problematic for courses that are not adequately staffed to mow frequently.

big picture, and the occasional race that must be run. Give us a call to lay out an exercise program that will improve the performance and dependability of your course - if you follow the outlined program there will be much to gain.

During recent visits in California, very positive results have been observed at courses that adopt a slightly different protocol for managing *Poa annua* putting greens - less mowing and more rolling. Oregon State University Researchers Golembiewski, Blankenship and McDonald have shown that rolling greens daily and mowing four days per week produced better green speed than mowing daily and rolling on a frequency of only three days per week. California superintendents who use the Oregon State protocol are seeing healthier turf, improved surface quality, and no significant difference in speed on the days the greens are rolled only.

Although many superintendents roll greens two or three times per week in combination with mowing, they have been cautious about increasing the rolling frequency due to concerns about increased soil compaction and additional wear caused by rolling equipment on the edges of greens. So far, the superintendents who use this new protocol have not seen any detrimental effects with the increased rolling frequency and have been very pleased with the appearance and playing quality of the greens.

As with any new product or practice, we recommended that you test the procedures on a small scale and evaluate the results. Here are a few key points to consider, based on conversations with superintendents using this new protocol:

[Read the rest of Pat's update](#)



Courses in California are seeing positive results on *Poa annua* greens by reducing mowing and increasing rolling frequency to six times per week.

Although the summer of 2010 was one of the hottest on record and widely publicized for the wake of destruction in the turf industry, it looks as though we've jumped out of the oven and right into the fire in 2011. Popular phrases that include 'the perfect storm', 'equal opportunity destroyer', and 'turf loss of epic proportions' are being bantered about once again, as Mother Nature turns up the heat and tries to roast the cool-season turfgrasses found on many golf courses beyond well done.

Managing turf during June and July in the upper Mid-Continent Region has been anything but easy, given the persistent heat wave. For much of Kansas and Missouri, nearly every other day during the past nine weeks has exceeded 100°F, and nighttime lows have rarely dropped below 80°F. Even though it is hard to imagine, 2011 may surpass 2010 for record heat. Some superintendents are already stretched, as this summer has dealt them an even worse set of circumstances. August conditions may leave some to wonder how they will have any turf to manage as putting green soil temperatures may continue to exceed 90 degrees.



Timely and precise hand-watering throughout the day is one of the most important measures taken to help creeping bentgrass and *Poa annua* putting greens survive hot summer temperatures. It also is the reason turf managers and their staff must log long hours to maintain the turf.

Somewhat surprisingly, education and communication efforts that were effective last year are not providing the same understanding ears this year. Course officials and golfers seem to be less receptive to the news about heat stress. This is a good time to revisit some fundamental principles of turf management:



Mid-Continent Region

Out Of The Oven And Into The Fire

by [Ty McClellan](#) , agronomist



Southwest Region

Less Mowing And More Rolling Benefit *Poa annua* Greens

by [Pat Gross](#) , director



North Central Region

No Pain, No Gain

by [R.A. \(Bob\) Brame](#), director

[Read the rest of Ty's update](#)

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by the USGA Green Section Staff

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