

# The USGA Green Section Record



February 4, 2011 -- Volume 49, Number 5

## 2011 Golf Industry Show USGA Green Section Education Conference Program Orlando, FL February 11, 2010

### Lessons Learned Come In All Forms

Altogether, the Green Section's staff totals 420+ years of experience, with hundreds of thousands of miles traveled annually. The 2011 USGA Educational Conference will highlight some of the lessons learned and changes witnessed in the turfgrass management field over the years. The Conference also will spotlight the 50th presentation of the USGA Green Section Award to this year's very worthy recipient.

10 a.m. - 10:15	The Good, Bad, and Ugly - the Green Committee Unveiled	Bob Brame, director, North Central Region
10:15 - 10:20	The Best Turf Tips	USGA Green Section staff
10:20 - 10:35	Life on the Road - Lessons Learned by the "New" Guys	Ty McClellan, Mid-Continent Region; Adam Moeller, Northeast Region; Derf Soller, Northwest Region; Brian Whitlark, Southwest Region
10:35 - 10:45	Presentation of the USGA Green Section Award	
10:45 - 11:05	Precision Turf Management: the Next Step in Resource Conservation	Chris Hartwiger, senior agronomist, Southeast Region
11:05 - 11:20	Philosophy versus Agronomy : Who wins - the Golf Course Management Staff or the Members?	Darin Bevard and Keith Happ, senior agronomists, Mid-Atlantic Region
11:20 - 11:25	More Best Turf Tips	USGA Green Section staff
11:25 - 11:40	Making a Career Out of Making Mistakes - This Road has a lot of Turns.	Jim Moore, director, Construction Education Program
11:40 - 11:45	The Best Tips Aren't Done Yet	USGA Green Section staff
11:45 - 12:00	Milestones in Golf Course Maintenance - Have They all Benefited the Game?	Stan Zontek director, Mid-Atlantic Region

### A Green Section Podcast

## The summer of 2010 and what superintendents and golfers can learn from it.

featuring [Darin Bevard](#), senior agronomist, Mid-Atlantic Region

In this podcast Darin discusses some of the major issues that challenged bentgrass greens and other course areas this past year.  
(Length: approximately 10 minutes)

Depending on the speed of your connection, you might have to allow a little time for the audio file to load.

[Listen to this podcast](#)



Darin Bevard

## USGA-Sponsored Research You Can Use Can annual bluegrass putting greens be healthy and fast?

by Dr. Rob Golembiewski, Tod Blankenship, CGCS, and Brian McDonald

Over the past 30 years the successful management of golf course putting greens in the United States has generally been associated with green speeds, which can be traced back to the introduction of the Stimpmeter in the late 1970s. The goal of the USGA in introducing the Stimpmeter was to give golf course superintendents a tool that would assist them in creating consistent putting conditions across the entire golf course.

Overwhelmingly, green speed research to date has focused primarily on creeping bentgrass. The objective of this research study was to investigate the effects of various mowing and rolling regimes on annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*) putting green speeds.

**Table 4**  
**Comparison of ball roll distance on a creeping bentgrass and annual bluegrass putting green as influenced by various mowing and rolling combinations**

Treatment	Bentgrass Green Speed	Annual Bluegrass Green Speed
Mowed Daily	—	—
Mowed Daily / Rolled MWF	+12"	+9"
Mowed & Rolled Daily	+23"	+17.5"
Rolled Daily / Mowed MWFSa	+20"	+12"
Alternated Mowed & Rolled	+5"	+2"

This is just one of the tables that provide valuable management information. [Be sure to read the rest of this update.](#)

[Read the rest of the research update.](#)

## A Method To Give A Goose To Your Geese - Part 2



### A Northwest Regional Update

by [Larry Gilhuly](#), director

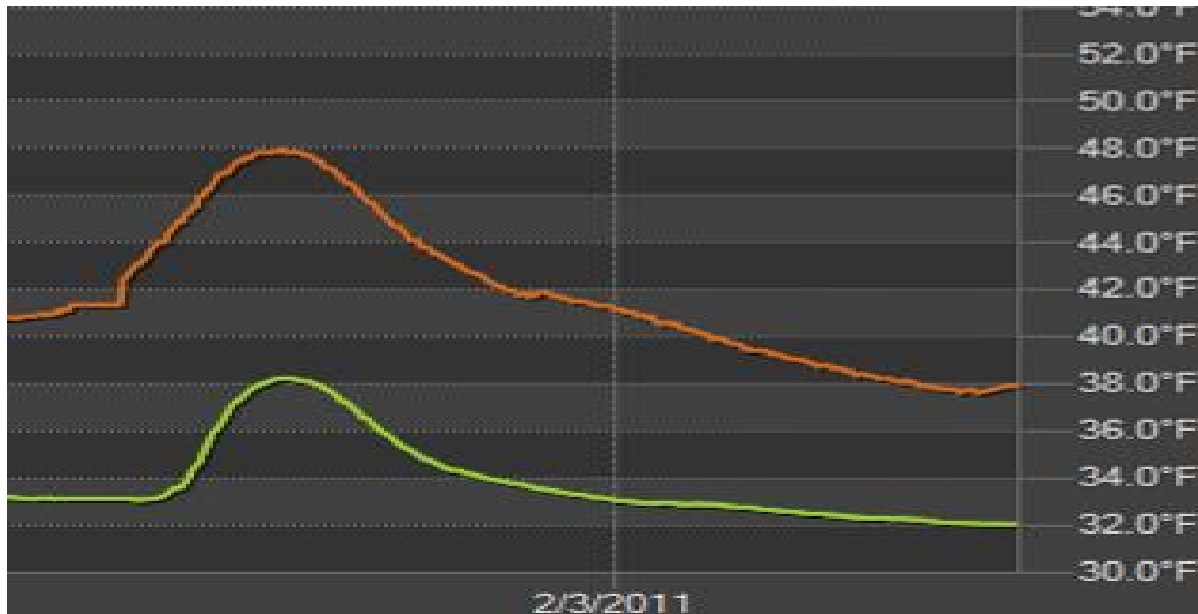
Every now and then a unique idea is found while visiting golf courses. During a USGA Turf Advisory Service visit to Waverley Country Club last year, a high-powered, hand-held laser for harassing Canada geese was discussed ([March 24, 2010 regional update](#)). The results at this course and at many other courses were very positive. It was an effective, quick-control method to annoy migratory geese under different conditions (dawn, dusk and cloudy days) from distances even greater than 300 yards. The birds are not harmed, but they are easily spooked by the laser's green light. However, permanent or nesting birds, especially Canada geese, couldn't care less about '*seeing the light*' and simply do not react to harassment efforts, regardless of daylight. Although other techniques are advised for these damaging and persistent birds, how is it that this effective method of bird intimidation has worked for crows and American widgeon? [Find out by reading the rest of this update.](#)



## Bermudagrass Greens May Be In Trouble - Again!

### A Mid-Continent Regional Update

by [Charles "Bud" White](#), director



*Covers do make a difference. The red line shows the temperature of a green covered with thin, black plastic sheeting. The green line shows the temperature of an uncovered green. (image courtesy of Travis Moore, The Club at Sonterra, San Antonio, Texas)*

The winter of 2010 produced some significant bermudagrass loss, but this winter might be worse. For example, the temperature hit a 15-year low in north Texas on Tuesday night and Wednesday's high temperature was the lowest it has been in the past 20 years. It was even colder in Oklahoma with some areas reporting temperatures as low as -18°F.

Temperatures are predicted to slightly improve for Saturday and Sunday, and undoubtedly there will be some pressure to remove covers and reopen the course. Err on the side of caution and keep the covers on through this next cold snap. Leaving the greens covered these two days in the lower Mid-Continent Region in anticipation of the potential winter storm on Monday will not be detrimental to the grass. These temperatures are not warm enough, nor is the length of time long enough, to create problems for the turf. Golfers can really help their courses by being patient during this period.

If courses decide to uncover greens for Saturday and Sunday, you may consider uncovering only nine holes and the practice putting green to provide playing options for any golfers. I also suggest the covers be rolled up to the back of the green to make recovering as easy as possible.

Occasionally I am asked about "icing" the greens. Although some superintendents have claimed success with this technique, the practice has not been scientifically verified as effective. On the other hand, protecting greens with blankets and or straw has been proven to provide a great deal of insurance against low-temperature damage.

For those courses in the central Mid-Continent Region who have received significant snow cover, there is an insulation effect that can help protect greens from the severe winter desiccation experienced in 2010. Desiccation often is most severe on north-facing, highly-exposed slopes.

Another item to consider is bringing bermudagrass plugs inside to check for winter kill. This is best done by bringing in cup cutter plugs, putting them in pots, and then setting them on a window sill so

they receive several hours of sunlight.

If you would like more information about a Turf Advisory Service visit, please contact either Mid-Continent regional office: Bud White, (972) 662-1138 or ([budwhite@usga.org](mailto:budwhite@usga.org)) and Ty McClellan, [tmcclellan@usga.org](mailto:tmcclellan@usga.org) or (630) 340-5853.

## The Bench Versus The Actual



### A North-Central Regional Update

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



The bench is important to a team, but it's the players on the floor that are in control at any given moment during a game. In a like manner, the mowing height bench setting on a mower is important, but it's the actual cut that directly impacts turf health, dependability and playability. Since mowing is a building-block component of golf turf maintenance, it is a common topic in turfgrass maintenance and during on-site Turf Advisory Service visits. Often, the focus is on the bench setting, as opposed to the more important actual cut. Isn't that a bit like relying on the benched players to score points rather than those on the floor? [Read the rest of this update.](#)

## Dormant Bermudagrass Depression



### A Southwest Regional Update

by [Pat Gross](#), director

Over the past few weeks, we've heard from many grumpy and depressed golfers about the "terrible condition of the golf course". What seems to be the problem? "The grass is dead!"

The grass really isn't dead. It's just taking a well deserved rest. A cold snap throughout southern California in late December and early January caused non-overseeded bermudagrass to go into dormancy.

When this happens, the grass loses its green color and goes into hibernation until warmer temperatures return in the spring. The loss of color is simply a plant defense mechanism in response to the cold air and soil temperatures. The grass is still alive, but growing very slowly.

The outcry from golfers usually centers on the following issues:

[Read on for these issues and suggestions for dealing with them.](#)



***Dormant bermudagrass is not "dead". Despite the loss of color, good playing quality can be preserved by minimizing cart and equipment traffic.***



## Looking for a previous issue of the *Green Section Record*?

The *Green Section Record* has been published under various names since 1921 and is composed of an amazing collection of full-text articles and photos. This collection is stored and maintained by the wonderful library staff at Michigan State University in the **Turfgrass Information File (TGIF)**. All past issues of the *Record*, right up to and including this one, can be accessed free-of-charge by following this link.

[Search the Green Section Record](#)



***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.