

The USGA Green Section Record



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On Again, Off Again

The process of covering and uncovering greens

by [Chris Hartwiger](#) and [Patrick O'Brien](#), Southeast Region

Temperatures continue to cycle from below average to average in the Southeast Region. Beginning in early December, superintendents with ultradwarf bermudagrass putting greens began using covers as needed. Putting green covers are something new for many maintenance departments in the region, as they convert from creeping bentgrass to an ultradwarf. Most superintendents are knowledgeable about when to put the covers on and off, but occasionally we receive questions about the actual procedure. There is an art to this procedure, especially when it is windy.



Atlanta Athletic Club Highlands Course Superintendent Kasey Kauff and his staff were kind enough to demonstrate their technique for covering and uncovering an ultradwarf bermudagrass putting green through this video.

[Watch on your PC](#)

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Interpreting Water Tests

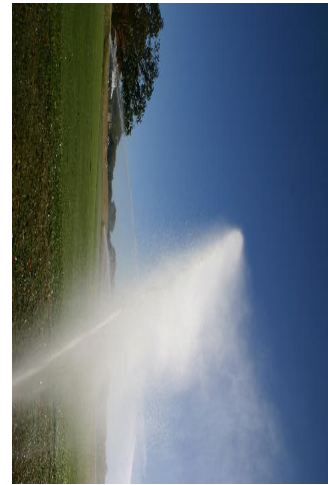
It's as easy as 1-2-3

by [Brian Whitlark](#), agronomist, Southwest Region

In this 60 minute mini-workshop, Green Section agronomist Brian Whitlark clearly explains how to evaluate your water and offers steps on how to improve it. Using actual water tests from courses across the country Brian will help you understand one of the most complicated yet important aspects of golf course and turfgrass management - water testing and treatment. Whether your water is good or bad you will learn a lot from this video so grab your water test and a cup of coffee and click on the video link below.

[Watch on your PC.](#)

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On Course *With Nature*

Moving forward with 20 of years experience New approaches advance environmental programs

by [Nancy Richardson](#), Director of the Audubon Signature Program for Audubon International



The wetland at Mirimichi was designed to protect Big Creek from runoff, but it has also become a wildlife hotspot with aesthetic value.

After nearly 20 years of working with new golf course projects through the Audubon International Signature Program, two things became clear to us. The first was that there were projects undergoing construction that had not learned about our program until the project was no longer eligible for the Signature Program. The second was that these same projects were also not eligible for the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (ACSP) for Golf Courses because they were not completely built and open for business. About the same time that we were receiving inquiries from these new projects, we also heard from projects undergoing renovation

that could benefit from design and construction information distributed through the Signature Program.

So, what happens to those projects that fall in between the two programs? It was a question that we were asked many times over the years until, in 2008, we launched a program that we knew would help fill that programming void - the Audubon International Classic Program. [Read on to find out.](#)

Define Desired Conditioning As You Engage 2011

A North-Central Regional Update

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

Last year is over, and we give thanks and gratitude as we engage a new year. Maintenance standards offer an excellent means of engaging what lies ahead. Over the last few months there have been several calls from superintendents and course officials about establishing maintenance standards to guide daily course conditioning, as well as budgeting and cash flow. Without question, establishing a detailed maintenance standards document is a worthwhile pursuit to maximize budget efficiency and reduce

the politics that commonly engulf golf course maintenance. Remember, a maintenance standards document is dynamic; not static. The committee or individuals charged with course maintenance are responsible for establishing, implementing and adjusting the standards as things change. The superintendent and key staff must provide professional input, but they are ultimately responsible to the policy makers and not the policy. In other words, policy makers must become immersed in the process and take ownership. If it is the superintendent alone who writes the standards, they will not have the same value.

[Read the rest of this update](#)

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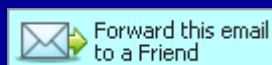
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