



GREEN SECTION RECORD

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GOLF'S USE OF WATER

PRESENTED BY THE USGA
SOLUTIONS FOR A MORE SUSTAINABLE GAME

Irrigation Puzzle: Sourcing Water For Golf Courses

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University of California

Note: If the video does not display properly after it is launched, close the page, return to the mailing, and copy and paste the link URL to your browser.

The most important issue facing the golf industry worldwide is water, or lack of it. Population increases and drought have resulted in golf courses successfully converting from potable to recycled water for irrigation. The golf industry has already overcome, through excellent educational outreach, the negative stereotype of irrigation with recycled water, and consequently, golf courses increasingly turn to the use of recycled water. The primary question has become not whether to switch to recycled water irrigation, or even how to manage irrigation with this new source, but how soon an individual course can access a recycled water source.

[Read The Written Article](#)
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ALL THINGS CONSIDERED – A USGA STAFF OPINION IF YOU CAN'T FIX IT, FEATURE IT



Slow play is one glaring issue facing the golf industry. Rather than hiding from this challenge, golf facilities are better served to advertise the reasons why golfers enjoy their experience and get a break from their busy schedules.

difficulty to play golf courses and slow play. How can the golf industry “feature” such issues rather than hide them? As an agronomist, my marketing background is essentially nil, but with the help of a family member who is a marketing consultant (and core golfer) we came up with a few ideas to feature golf's most glaring issues.

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Advertisement campaigns for products that are guilty pleasures or embarrassing to talk about are often more successful when the slogan emphasizes, not hides, the most glaring feature. Good campaigns that market products such as sugary cereals or bathroom tissue emphasize their glaring features in a way that embraces the best qualities of the product through the eyes of the consumer.

The golf industry is faced with features of its own, including the

A FICTIONAL STORY BASED ON MY MANY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE MAINTAINING PUBLIC GOLF FACILITIES

SOMETIMES SUPERINTENDENTS CAN'T SEE THE GOLF COURSE FOR THE GRASS



Dennis Lyon is a retired superintendent with 37 years of experience in public golf facility management. He is a past president of the GCSAA, the 2011 recipient of the USGA Green Section Award and an active member of the USGA Green Section Committee.

It took me many years in the golf industry to realize my job as a superintendent was not simply about growing grass; rather, it is about providing great playing surfaces. The grass and other plants we grow are simply tools to help provide the conditions golfers expect and need in order to play and enjoy the game. A round of golf on a beautiful course with poor playing conditions is like spending a beautiful afternoon with a gorgeous person who has bad habits, bad manners and a bad attitude. Substance matters, doesn't it? [Read More](#)

FORE THE GOLFER

USGA Green Section educational content and resources developed specifically with the golfer in mind.

DIVOT REPAIR ETIQUETTE

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RESEARCH UPDATE

USGA turfgrass and environmental research impacts the game of golf in more ways than you think.

NFL TEAM SELECTS USGA-FUNDED BERMUDAGRASS FOR HOME FIELD

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REGIONAL UPDATES



MID-ATLANTIC

On recent Turf Advisory Service visits, the height, thickness and ultimately the difficulty of cool-season rough has been the most prominent topic of conversation.

It is easy to understand the golfer's frustration with the rough. It may be more difficult to understand that superintendents are frustrated as well. However, there are options for addressing this problem.

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SOUTHEAST

Dr. Brian Schwartz of the University of Georgia has spent the last five years refining the direction of the bermudagrass breeding program. A question and answer session with Patrick O'Brien of the Green Section outlines Dr. Schwartz's goals for the program and the industry.

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NORTH-CENTRAL

Frost and cool temperatures are still limiting turf growth at courses throughout the states of the North-Central Region. As a result, dandelions and knotweed find little competition in slow growing fairways and roughs, especially in areas that were already thin due to winterkill. Fortunately, there are steps that can be taken to help both problems.

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NORTHEAST

Bumpy greens, seedheads, and a slow spring are challenging golfers and superintendents. Add to this the first sightings of annual bluegrass weevils and you have a combination that can test the best turfgrass managers. What can be done?

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FLORIDA

While winter overseeding of bermudagrass greens, tees, and fairways has declined in recent years, the practice is still employed at many courses. The prolonged spring has delayed the process of transitioning from the overseeded grasses (typically ryegrass and *Poa trivialis*) back to the permanent base of bermudagrass. This could have season-long ramifications.

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SOUTHWEST

Visits to golf courses in recent weeks have revealed some interesting problems with golf course trees, particularly with prominent California specimens such as coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) and coast redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*). Whether it's the limited rainfall or the temperature fluctuations this spring – nobody knows, but these species are having a tough time in some locations. What steps, if any, should be taken?

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NORTHWEST

Encouraging deeper rooting early in the spring is a good way to help turfgrass plants survive when temperatures get hot, as they surely will in the upcoming months. While golf course superintendents have many options to promote rooting, one of the best needs to be employed more often.

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MID-CONTINENT

USGA agronomists conduct a simulated Turf Advisory Service (TAS) visit to the golf course and its maintenance facility for CMAA members.

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FORWARD TO A FRIEND

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