

USGA WEBCAST

DEEP VERTICAL MOWING

BY BUD WHITE



HOW TREES IMPACT USGA COURSE RATING™ AND SLOPE RATING®

TREE REMOVALS FOR AGRONOMIC PURPOSES ARE VERY UNLIKELY TO HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Trees are common features on golf courses adding aesthetic beauty and challenge for players. Unfortunately, trees can make it very difficult to maintain a healthy, uniform stand of turf. Trees create shade, restrict air movement and compete with turf for water and nutrients in the soil. All of this can result in poor turf performance and undesirable course conditions when trees are located too close to playing areas. When investigating the underlying problems associated with poor turf performance, start by examining trees and their impact on growing environments. When turf suffers and playing conditions are compromised because of trees, golf facilities are wise to routinely remove problematic trees, especially those near the most important playing areas.



Tree removal is often met with resistance from golfers despite the negative impact trees have on turf. Golfers are often concerned with how removing trees might impact the difficulty of a particular hole or the course in general. The phrase "we cannot remove that tree because the hole will become too easy" has been muttered often. This sentiment is highly subjective from a golfer standpoint, but understanding the USGA Course Rating System™ can provide some valuable insight for this concern.

The tree fronting the left side of this putting green will impact the obstacle value on this hole, but it is unlikely that the Course Rating and Slope Rating will change dramatically if removed.

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NO-MOW ROUGH MANAGEMENT

CONVERTING MANAGED ROUGH TO UNMOWN TURF CAN REDUCE COSTS



A 50/50 mixture of sheep and hard fescue along the perimeter of a bunker can produce a look that accents the hazard without compromising the playability of turf in the surrounds.

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While the concept of reducing maintenance inputs in golf course roughs is nothing new, it really picked up momentum in the early 1980s with the increased use of fine fescues and native grasses. Native grasses are those that originated as a true native grass to each region, while fine fescues are those originating from other regions of the world and adapted to a given growing environment. These grasses can reduce, albeit not eliminate, maintenance costs for unmowed roughs. When the right turfgrass species and management structure are in place, the end result can produce a playing surface desired by both superintendents and golfers.

Optimal growth for each species requires specific soil types and growing conditions. The first step is to test the soil for nutrients and pH. Once this information is reviewed, deficiencies can be corrected and specific grasses or forbs can be selected that have the ability to thrive at your course.

FORE THE GOLFER

ETIQUETTE TOWARDS MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL

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View In Spanish: [Etiqueta Con El Personal De Mantenimiento](#)

Spring is an extremely busy time for golf course maintenance personnel and there is likely to be more interaction than usual between golfers and maintenance staff members. While staff members should always watch for golfers, some tasks require a lot of concentration and utilize noisy equipment. As a result, the staff member may not notice golfers waiting to play. Golfers should remember that hitting into someone (whether a worker or another golfer) is never justified. This video explains how a little patience can prevent serious injury and help improve your course.

RESEARCH THAT MATTERS

SALAMANDERS HELP PREDICT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OF GOLF COURSES

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Golf courses have many beneficial impacts on the environment including providing a wide variety of wildlife a great place to live and reproduce. Salamanders are considered an "indicator species" to gauge the environmental health of an ecosystem. This study shows that properly managed golf courses are a good place for salamanders to call home.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

THE USE OF CHEMICAL WEED KILLERS ON GOLF COURSES

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It is that time of year when spring weeds seemingly grow faster than any other plant on the golf course. For Southern regions, the problem is effectively doubled since winter annuals are fully grown and blooming. Fortunately, today's turfgrass managers have many safe and effective options to chemically eradicate most weed problems. It was not always that way. In fact, [this 1921 article from the Green Section Bulletin](#) illustrates that early weed control efforts were poorly understood, marginally effective and sometimes dangerous.

REGIONAL UPDATES



REGIONAL UPDATES

The USGA Green Section is divided into eight regions staffed by agronomists who work with golf facilities on care of the golf course. USGA agronomists provide regular regional updates outlining current issues and observations from the field. Be sure to view updates from multiple regions as featured ideas, techniques and solutions to problems often apply to other parts of the country.



NORTHEAST REGION

Reports of cold-temperature injury are surfacing throughout the region as the snow and ice recedes and soils begin to thaw. It is apparent that several forms of winter injury may have affected conditions at your course.

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MID-ATLANTIC REGION

Unfortunately, the warm weather has confirmed that there is a lot of grass in the northern tier of the Mid-Atlantic Region that will not be greening-up anytime soon. *Poa annua* populations on putting greens in these areas suffered significant winterkill; however, the severity of the damage varies from golf course to golf course.

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SOUTHEAST REGION

The USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research program has funded projects at land-grant universities across the country at a cost of \$40 million since 1920. This update is the second in a three-part series on how these USGA funded research projects benefit golfers.

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FLORIDA REGION

The winter golf season in south Florida is coming to an end and summertime management practices are soon to follow. This update features the importance of including collar maintenance in your summertime routine to prevent problems associated with elevated collars.

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NORTH-CENTRAL REGION

For many, particularly those in the northern tier of the North-Central Region, winter damage has severely impacted putting greens in these areas suffered significant winterkill; however, the severity of the damage varies from golf course to golf course.

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MID-CENTRAL REGION

As much of the lower Midwest remains in a significant drought, now is the time to take stock of your water. Read on for a list of questions that golf facilities should be asking themselves so that plans are in place before a potential summer drought event occurs.

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NORTHWEST REGION

Sand tracked onto greens by players following a bunker shot can cause more problems than you might think.

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SOUTHWEST REGION

The USGA has partnered with NTEP to evaluate the performance of several varieties of bermudagrass, zoysiagrass and seashore paspalum under reduced management regimes. This update provides an overview of the research and offers an example of how to evaluate grasses at your course.

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- Individual updates from 8 USGA Green Section regions and the research program

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