



Here are some interesting figures to keep in mind as you watch the 2015 U.S. Open Championship:

38,000: The number of annual rounds at Chambers Bay

72: Acres of maintained playing surfaces, approximately 96 percent fine fescue

4: Types of fine fescues at Chambers Bay; hard, sheep, red and Chewings fescues

0.180: Mowing height in inches of the putting greens

35: The regular number of maintenance staff members

150: Maintenance volunteers, all being housed at the University of Puget Sound

1: The number of trees at Chambers Bay, a Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)

2006: The year construction of Chambers Bay began

1.4: Million cubic yards of on-site material were screened and reused during construction

0: Carts. Chambers Bay is a walking-only course

100: Approximate labor hours used to rake bunkers each day during the U.S. Open Championship



Available in Spanish: [Golf De TV Juego Diario](#)

Fine Fescue Roughs And Fairways

Bob Vavrek (bvavrek@usga.org), agronomist, Central Region



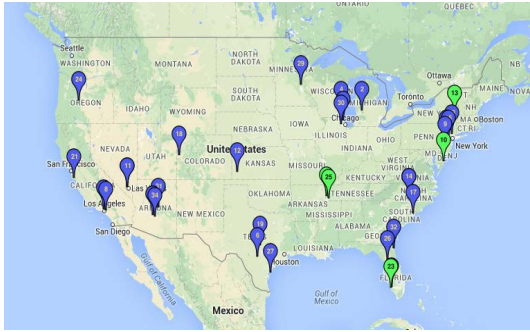
Those who watch the U.S. Open this week will hear a lot about the fescue planted on the Chambers Bay course. Fescue is the common name for a broad group of cool-season grasses, most of European origin. While many types of fescue grow on golf courses around the world, there are four established at Chambers Bay - hard, sheep, red and Chewings.

This week's U.S. Open audience might wonder why the course they play at home is not planted to fescue. After all, low water use, low fertilization needs, tight growth habit, and the ability to produce firm and fast playing surfaces are desirable traits. Given the environmental and economic challenges facing many courses, fescue would seem to be a logical choice.

Unfortunately, there are few areas within the United States with suitable climates for the long-term management of fine fescues. There are also specific soil requirements and cart traffic limitations. Most importantly, golfers must be willing to accept a different look than they are accustomed.

To learn more about how fescue is used on golf courses click the Read More link below..

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What's New From The USGA Green Section

Best Management Practice Case Studies

Best Management Practices (BMPs) in golf course management are critical for the protection and efficient utilization of our most valuable resources. BMPs are broad principles. The golf course manager implements these concepts with specific actions pertinent to the golf course. The USGA highlights case studies from across the U.S. that showcase real-world solutions implemented by golf courses to best utilize the resources at their disposal.

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REGIONAL UPDATES

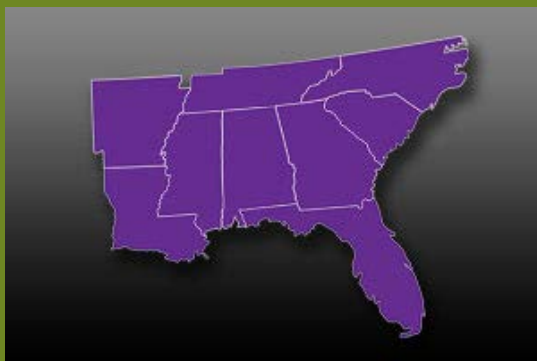
The USGA Green Section is divided into four regions staffed by agronomists who work with golf facilities on care of the golf course. USGA agronomists provide regular regional updates outlining current issues and observations from the field. Be sure to view updates from multiple regions as featured ideas,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



NORTHEAST REGION

Does recent winter injury have you questioning whether transitioning to bermudagrass was the right decision for your course? This week's regional update offers a few things to consider before transitioning back to cool-season turf.

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SOUTHEAST REGION

Lightning is not something to take chances with, as Chris Hartwig's report on his recent experiences emphasizes. Almost as unpopular with golfers is the need for cultivation practices - a topic Todd Lowe discusses in this update.

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WEST REGION

Have you noticed that hair stylists often use a brush to stand up your hair before cutting it? Learn how the same principle applies to putting greens and can be used to promote turf health, achieve green speeds and maintain putting quality throughout the day.

[Read More](#)



CENTRAL REGION

Naturalized, tall grass areas can add a great deal of beauty to a course and save resources in the process. However, the success of these areas depends on the ability to control the amount of water they receive. While superintendents can control their irrigation applications with remarkable accuracy, as of yet they cannot control the weather.

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