

WHEN IS IT TIME TO REPLACE THE IRRIGATION SYSTEM?

By Pat Gross, regional director, West Region and Elliott Dowling, agronomist, Northeast Region



Valve failure and frequent pipe breaks are signs that parts of an irrigation system are worn out and need to be replaced.

What is the one thing on a golf course that costs an exorbitant amount of money, most golfers never see, and most modern golf courses can't survive without? An irrigation system. The efficient application of water is playing an increasingly important role as golf courses are focused more than ever on conserving water resources and protecting water quality. In the western U.S., water shortages and the rising cost of water has put more emphasis than ever on irrigation system efficiency. In the eastern U.S. and other parts of the country with plentiful rainfall, an efficient irrigation system helps golf facilities comply with strict water-use regulations and contributes to better course conditioning. Like all mechanical systems, sprinklers, pipes, fittings, controllers and other components experience wear and tear and will need to be replaced at some point. However, when budgets are tight and replacement costs are on the rise, the question becomes "When is it time to replace the irrigation system?"

This article will examine the many issues and pertinent questions to answer when determining the need to replace a golf course irrigation

system.

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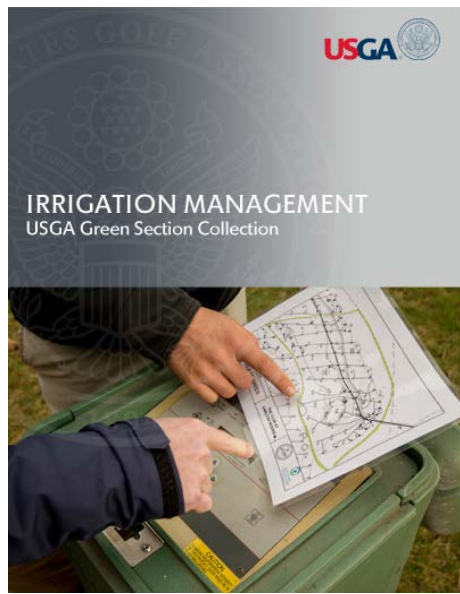
USGA TURF MINUTE VIDEO: TAP TO TURF



DIGITAL COLLECTION - IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT

We are excited to add a new feature to the Green Section Record in 2015. Each issue of the Green Section Record now will include an interactive digital collection of supporting materials. In addition to the monthly major article, each digital collection will include supporting articles, and a photo gallery and videos that provide additional, relevant information on the subject. The collections can be viewed online in a user-friendly digital magazine format, saved as a PDF or printed. We hope you find this new feature to be an extremely useful resource.

[View The "Irrigation Management" Collection Now](#)



USGA AGRONOMIST POSITION NOW OPEN



The United States Golf Association seeks an agronomist in their Green Section's West Region office located in Santa Ana, Calif. Candidates must possess excellent written and oral communication skills, attention to detail and the desire to provide high-quality progressive products and services. A Bachelor of Science degree in agronomy, horticulture or related field is required, along with three years of golf course or related work experience.

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter and resume as one document to [Agronomist, West Region](#). The application deadline for this position is March 10, 2015.

UPCOMING: LIVE USGA WEBCAST ON WEDNESDAY MARCH 25, 2015, 2 P.M. EDT I'M ON THE GREEN COMMITTEE, NOW WHAT DO I DO?

The question above is one of the most common questions heard by USGA agronomists in visits across the country. The USGA is offering a free webinar with the intent of helping clubs address the age-old question - "I am on the green committee, now what do I do?" Topics to be discussed include but are not limited to:

- What are the desired individual traits for being on a green committee
- Green committee structure
- The top ten mistakes made by green committees
- Establishment of maintenance standards
- Summary

The webinar is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at 2 p.m. EDT.

The presentation is anticipated to be no more than 30 minutes plus time for questions.

Suggested audience: Green committee members, board of directors, golf committee members, golf course staff.

[Register Now](#)



REGIONAL UPDATES

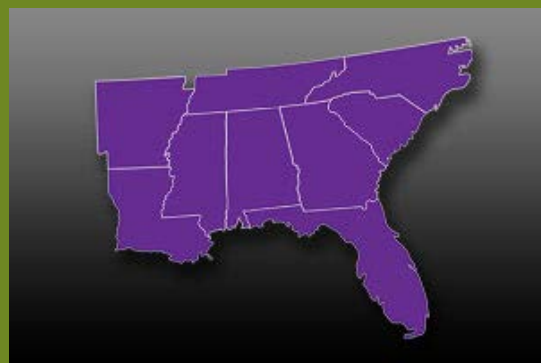
The USGA Green Section is divided into four regions staffed by agronomists who work with golf facilities on care of the golf course. USGA agronomists provide regular regional updates outlining current issues and observations from the field. Be sure to view updates from multiple regions as featured ideas,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



NORTHEAST REGION

Last month, snow blanketed much of the Northeast Region and while snow pack can insulate turf from cold temperatures, continuous ice cover for protracted periods of time can be detrimental. If you're concerned about snow and ice cover on your greens, assess your winter-injury risk with help from this week's regional update.

[Read More](#)



SOUTHEAST REGION

While traffic issues are of concern at some courses where record-breaking rounds of golf have been played, other courses recently have experienced record-setting cold temperatures. The agronomists from the Southeast Region discuss these concerns and more in this week's regional update.

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WEST REGION

The warmer-than-normal weather in much of the West Region is causing a variety of concerns. While some facilities are worried about winterkill, others are implementing *Poa annua* seedhead-suppression techniques much earlier than normal.

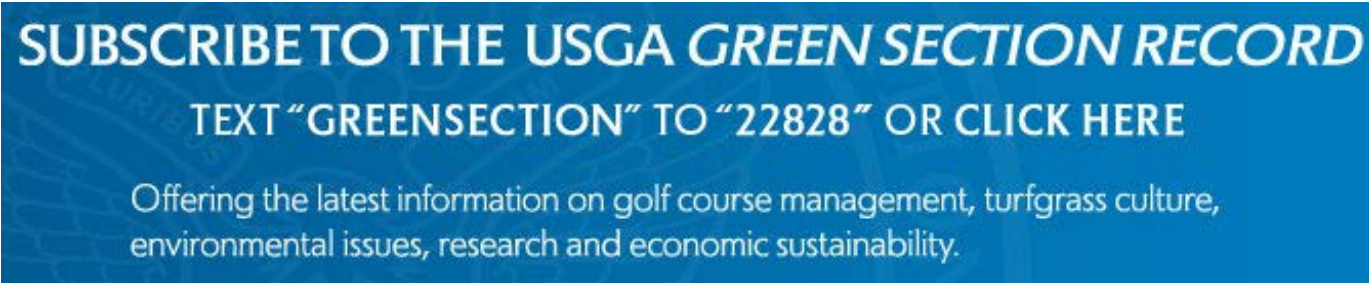
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CENTRAL REGION

A broad range of topics and new products were presented last week at the 2015 Golf Industry Show in San Antonio, Texas, but one theme prevailed - the golf industry is focusing evermore on water conservation. Keep in mind that messaging can be as important as new technologies that help conserve water.

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