

Green Section Record

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How To Develop a Water Budget for your Golf Course

By [Patrick J. Gross and Christopher Hartwiger](#)

Can you answer three basic questions about water use at your golf facility?

- How much water does our golf facility need each year to keep the turf healthy?
- Does our golf facility use water efficiently?
- Can we prove it?



If you are unable to answer any of these questions, a water budget is just what you need.

Whether the issue is water use or finances, managers have long known that efficiently managing resources requires measuring the use and consumption of those resources. Once consumption is measured, objective decisions can be made to influence behavior and outcomes. These same principles can be applied to developing a water budget for a golf facility. The water budget establishes a benchmark for golf course water requirements that can be compared to actual water use, ultimately confirming if water is being used efficiently or if changes in management strategy are needed. This article will introduce the concept of a water budget, define the terms that make up a water budget and provide the reader with step-by-step instructions to create a water budget using the USGA Water Budget Calculator Tool.

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Multimedia Content



Developing a Water Budget Using the USGA Water Budget Calculator

A water budget is an estimate of the amount of irrigation water that will be used by a golf course throughout the course of the year. Water budgets vary based on a number of factors. Learn more about the USGA Water Budget Calculator in this webcast.

[View Webcast](#)

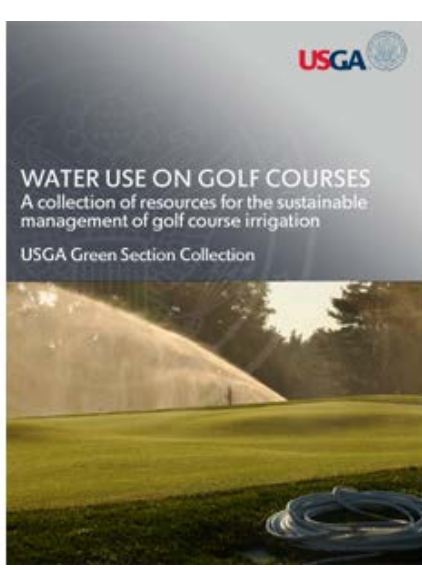


How Much Water Does a Golf Course Need?

Kimberly Erusha, managing director of the USGA Green Section, explains the impact different types of grasses have on how much water a golf course needs.

[View Video](#)

Green Section Collection: Water Use on Golf Courses

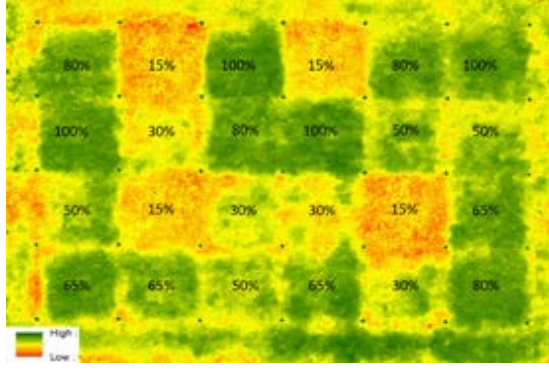


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The collections can be viewed online in a user-friendly digital magazine format, saved as a PDF or printed. We hope you find this new feature to be a useful resource.

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Research You Should Know



Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems Detect Turfgrass Drought

New technology may offer the use of small unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) for turfgrass management. Small UAS use remote sensing to measure turfgrass properties and diagnose plant stresses. Small UAS can cover an 18-hole golf course faster than hand-held or ground-vehicle platforms.

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Fore The Golfer



Water Budgets: A Hydration Plan for Golf Course Turf

As a golfer, it is second nature to grab a bottle of water to stay hydrated during a round of golf on a hot day, but have you ever wondered how much water the turfgrass you are playing on needs to stay healthy and hydrated?

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Regional Updates



West Region

A golf course in Southern Arizona was able to provide substantially better playing conditions and aesthetics during the primary revenue season by doing the unthinkable – not overseeding.

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Northeast Region

Pesticides remain an important tool for maintaining golf courses. Using the Environmental Impact Quotient helps managers calculate and compare the environmental impacts of the products they use to maintain your golf course.

[View Update](#)



Central region

April showers can do more for a golf course than simply bringing May flowers. Take advantage of a heavy rainfall event this spring by documenting drainage problems that should be addressed before summer heat arrives.

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Southeast Region

Nobody likes core aeration or the bumpy greens it creates. Fortunately, innovative organic matter techniques may be able to dilute aeration matter with fewer aeration events each summer.

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