

Light And Frequent Topdressing Programs

By [Brian Whitlark](#) and [Cole Thompson](#)



Sand topdressing is one of the most important practices for producing smooth putting surfaces and diluting thatch and organic matter. The consequences of an inadequate topdressing program may not be observed immediately, but eventually there will be significant negative impacts on playability and turf health. This article will provide recommendations on sand selection, topdressing rates and application frequency to help ensure that your topdressing program delivers the best results.

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Multimedia Content



Frequent Topdressing For Better Putting Conditions

There are few things more frustrating than seeing a good putt bounce off line. Sand topdressing helps to eliminate imperfections and keep the ball rolling smoothly.

[Watch Video](#)



Infographic: What Is Topdressing?

Sand topdressing helps superintendents maintain putting surfaces that are smooth, firm and healthy. This infographic explains the process and details some of the key benefits.

[View Infographic](#)

Research You Should Know



Remove Or Recycle Cores?

Topdressing sand can be very expensive and it may be difficult to find sand that matches the existing rootzone material. For these reasons, some courses are recycling their aeration cores by breaking them up and reincorporating the material into the aeration holes. Researchers at Iowa State University are studying this practice and have some interesting preliminary results.

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Fore The Golfer



A Little Sand Goes A Long Way

Frequent sand topdressing is an important part of maintaining topnotch putting greens. However, there can be some temporary disruption after sand is applied. Having some sand clinging to your ball in the morning dew can be a little annoying, but the benefits are more than worthwhile. Topdressing yields better playing conditions on a daily basis and less disruption in the long term.

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Regional Updates



West Region

Poa annua is often looked upon as an inferior putting green turf. However, in many locations it can create an exceptional playing experience.

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Northeast Region

Poa annua seedhead production on golf courses varies from year to year, and this spring seems to be particularly bad for seedhead emergence.

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Central Region

Can't wait to get out on the course this spring? Hungry ticks can't wait for you to arrive either. Spending a little time to protect yourself before a round and thoroughly checking for ticks after can help you avoid tick-borne diseases.

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Southeast Region

Under the new Rules of Golf, many golfers are opting to leave the flagstick in the hole while putting. Golfers should still use their hand to carefully remove the ball from the hole, and should not use the flagstick to retrieve their ball.

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