

Letter From The Editor

To the Reader:

I hope this issue of the USGA *Green Section Record* finds you and your family, friends and colleagues in good health. As you know, the spread of the novel coronavirus is having a tremendous impact on golf course maintenance practices across the country. Many golf courses are operating with limited staff and taking unique approaches to course setup and presentation to minimize the risk of spreading the virus. Courses are also being forced to cope with resource impacts that are likely to become worse. The previously published USGA article “ [Dollars and Sense: Making it in a Tough Economy](#) ” outlines many helpful strategies golf courses can implement in response to the labor and resource challenges presented by this virus. Additional content will be developed by our Green Section staff as the impact of the virus on the golf course industry unfolds. If you have any agronomic questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to your regional [USGA agronomist](#) via email or phone.



Sincerely,

Adam C. Moeller
Editor-in-Chief

Regional Updates



West Region

Sadly, March Madness takes a new form this year. Golf course maintenance operations can use what will likely be a period of reduced play volume to conduct important cultural practices.

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Northeast Region

Courses throughout the Northeast are mowing playing surfaces for the first time to clean them up. This is an excellent opportunity to assess turf health and prepare for the upcoming season.

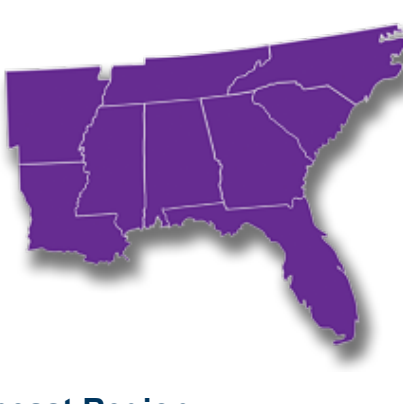
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Central Region

Golf courses throughout the country are doing their part to monitor and mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Here are some examples of prevention strategies that are being implemented.

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Southeast Region

Before courses decide whether to rebuild putting greens this summer, it's important to perform due diligence to determine which construction method is best for their unique situation.

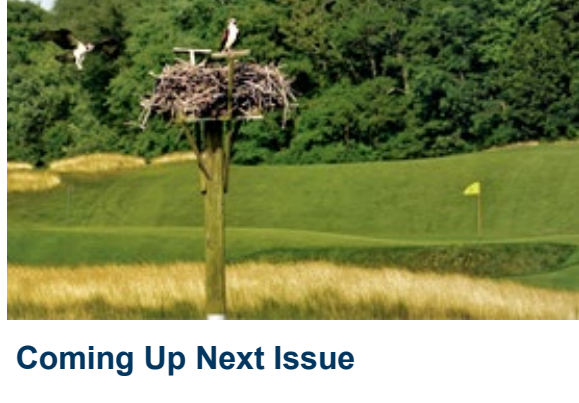
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In Case You Missed It

For many superintendents, hiring and retaining a reliable maintenance staff is the number one concern heading into each golf season. It's increasingly difficult to fill positions and the cost of labor is rising. The March 6, 2020, issue of the USGA *Green Section Record* highlighted various strategies currently being used by superintendents around the country to build a high-quality and reliable maintenance staff in today's increasingly challenging labor market.

[Read This Issue](#)
[Browse All Past Issues](#)

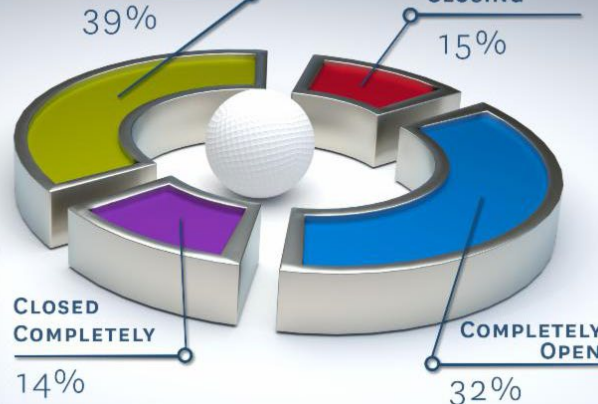


Coming Up Next Issue

Many bird species, even common birds that we see every day, are under threat from development, habitat loss and various other challenges. Golfers and golf courses are in a great position to help. The April 3, 2020, issue of the USGA *Green Section Record* details a number of key strategies that will help your golf course to support a wide variety of bird species. In the process, you may also conserve resources, engage golfers and improve the overall golf experience.

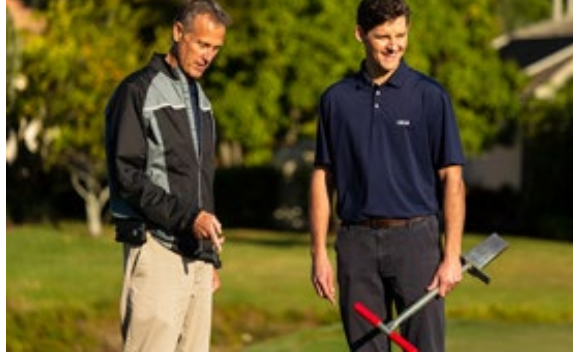
USGA POLL QUESTION RESULTS

Previously, @AdamMoeller asked:
Due to rising concerns over COVID-19, what is your golf course doing?



Latest From Course Care

Industry Update



New Director Of Turfgrass And Environmental Research

Dr. Cole Thompson named as Director, Turfgrass and Environmental Research. Thompson will administer the USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Program, which funds more than \$1.5 million in research grants each year.

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USGA Panel Discussion



New Trends In Aeration And Topdressing

USGA agronomists lead a panel discussion about emerging trends in putting green aeration and topdressing at the Golf Industry Show. Watch the panel discussion to find out if these new trends are right for your course.

[Watch Now](#)

100th Anniversary



From The Vault: Experimental Greens

Improving grasses has always been a big part of the USGA Green Section's work, as shown in this 1940 article describing experimental "pie greens" at courses around the United States, including Pine Valley.

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Featured



Dollars And Sense: Making It During Times Of Uncertainty

Golf course maintenance staffs across the country are being impacted by COVID-19. This article from a past crisis outlines many helpful strategies golf courses can implement in response to the labor challenges presented by this virus.

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Editorial Staff

[Adam Moeller](#) Editor in Chief

[George Waters](#) Associate Editor

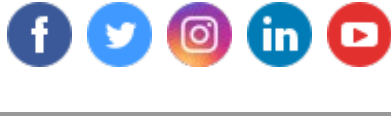
[Matthew Patalona](#) Creative Director

[Andrew Caron](#) Art Director

United States Golf Association
77 Liberty Corner Road
Liberty Corner, NJ 07938
908.234.2300

[Contact Us](#)

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