Golf course superintendents are charged with producing and maintaining excellent course presentation while balancing agronomics and budget limitations. These three equally important components form what I call the Superintendent Triangle.

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THE SUPERINTENDENT TRIANGLE

1. Agronomics
2. Presentation (of the golf course)
3. Budget Limitations

Keeping the triangle balanced is key, which means to be successful superintendents must commit to managing all three components.

Agronomics

Balancing agronomics and budget limitations is crucial. Agronomics involve the application of knowledge and skill to the care of golf courses. This includes managing the soil, plants, and water to create a healthy environment for the golf course. It also involves using environmentally-friendly practices to reduce the impact on the environment.

Presentation

The presentation of the golf course is a measure of its overall appearance and condition. This includes the maintenance of the greens, fairways, and other playing surfaces. A well-maintained golf course not only enhances the playing experience for golfers but also attracts new players.

Budget Limitations

Budget limitations are a reality for many golf courses. Superintendents must be resourceful and creative in managing their budgets to ensure that the golf course is well-maintained while staying within financial constraints.

Overseeding BERMUAGRASS FAIRWAYS

Overseeding bermudagrass fairways and primary playing areas remains an important task. This practice helps to prepare the fairways for the next growing season and maintain the quality of the playing surface.

Benefits of Overseeding

Overseeding bermudagrass fairways and primary playing areas helps to:

- Ensure a suitable surface for the next overseeding period
- Establish a ryegrass cover turf
- Prevent bermudagrass from becoming dormant
- Provide a green playing surface during the winter

Overseeding Process

Overseeding is a process that involves removing the existing turf and replacing it with new seed. This process is essential for maintaining the quality of the playing surface and ensuring a good seed-to-soil contact.

 Overseeding preparations without damaging leaves. The burn-down process simplifies revealing green stems underlying the burnt grasses. Close observation of bermudagrass fairway growth is crucial to ensure that the overseeding process is successful.

Agronomic Considerations

When overseeding bermudagrass fairways, superintendents must consider the timing, seeding rates, and post-seeding care. The timing of overseeding is critical to ensure that the new seed has a good chance of establishment. Seeding rates should be appropriate for the desired density and health of the new turf.

Ethenicly-Friendly Nematicides

The USGA is funding research at the University of Florida to identify more environmentally-friendly nematicide products that can be used during the overseeding season. These products are designed to control soil-borne pests without harming the newly established turf.

Agronomic Research

The USGA Green Section continues to support agronomic research to improve the management of golf courses. This includes the study of bermudagrass varieties, pest management, and soil health. The goal is to develop sustainable and environmentally-friendly practices that benefit both golfers and the environment.

Regional Updates

Regional updates provide insights into the golf course management practices in different parts of the country.

NORTHWEST REGION

Another hot summer leads to continued challenges in the Northwest. Drought conditions for many. Is your course prepared for the upcoming winter? How will it impact your spring golf season?

NORTH-CENTRAL REGION

Brown no more. Turf colorants are often apply to other parts of the course. Create your own because featured ideas, updates from other regions and not just observing in the field. Be sure to view course updates from other regions.

NORTHEAST REGION

Read More

THE USGA TURFGRASS AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH ONLINE (TERO)

USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Online (TERO) is an electronic platform for the presentation of research findings related to turfgrass and environmental conservation. Highlights of three trials are presented in this week’s update.

- Turfgrass and weed control trials along with applications of conservation. Highlights of three trials are presented in this week’s update.
- Weather always has a huge impact. How many times have you heard that. The summer of 2013 was particularly difficult for the Northeast. Drought conditions lead to continued challenges. Is your course prepared for the upcoming winter? How will it impact your spring golf season?
- NORTHEAST REGION