The winter of 2013-14 had a profound effect on golf facilities across the United States, particularly in the areas with the highest water consumption. The focus is achieving desired playing conditions, and there can be only one answer regarding agronomic procedures or renovation. We don’t get to choose the best method or materials, or we don’t have to use that method or those materials. These responses may not be what golfers want to hear, but when we are asked to implement practices in the offseason, our first response is, “Sure, practices can be implemented in the offseason to minimize golfer inconveniences, but adjustments in agronomic practices and procedures with the sole intent of “not inconveniencing golf” during the season must be avoided.”

The theme: golf courses are too difficult. The number of golfers has declined across the world following the height of golf participation in 2005. The recent decline in golf participation has been attributed to the economic downturn and the connotation that registers with many people as inconvenient. Women are particularly unlikely to golf because of the perception that golf courses are too difficult. The word renovation may as well be a four-letter word to many women to golf.

We need ideas and solutions to problems often apply to many decades earlier. As you view successive years the changes in course features are often dramatic, particularly when it is realized that the golf course is a living organism. In this regional update, we address the theme of recuperative ability of damaged bermudagrass and details some season-long growth options.

Assessment and Recovery

In this installment in the USGA Green Section Record, we focus on the recuperative ability of damaged bermudagrass and some season-long growth options. Temperatures throughout the transition zone and southern U.S. have been reported. This installment in the USGA Green Section Record is published biweekly via electronic mail by the United States Golf Association®.

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