Think sand-green golf is simply pasture golf? While occasionally true, sand-green courses - just like courses with grass greens - vary considerably in quality. Conditions also can vary widely due to time of year and regional site conditions. Some sand-green courses have rolling terrain in open environments with few trees and little separation between holes. Others have water features with plenty of shaded areas and thick vegetation. Still others have sand greens surrounded by sand hazards. And some have sand bunkers and greens on the side of a cliff. Sand greens can be found by oceans, rivers, and ponds, and some are located by a hilltop, a lake, or a wetland. The amount of sand used for sand greens varies considerably from course to course, and some are composed of sand alone, while others contain a mixture of sand and soil. Sand greens offer a look back to the origins of golf in the U.S. and other parts of the world where sand greens were once the norm. Once widespread in the early 1900s, sand-green courses still are fairly common in several Midwestern states. However, many golfers have never heard of them. In fact, many notable golf facilities in the U.S. began with sand greens only to later convert to grass greens. In a way, playing sand greens is an exercise in time travel. Sand greens can’t be cut, raised, or moved to meet playability targets. Identification of the factors that impact course conditions through a performance review will help identify where improvements are needed to meet playability targets. In the NORTHEAST REGION, as the use of improved cultivars of bermudagrass spreads farther north, practices to improve winter survival become paramount. As the use of improved cultivars of bermudagrass spreads farther south, the positive impacts on putting green performance. Putting greens at your course? Sand topdressing is an often misunderstood practice, but it is a practice that has profound positive effects on putting green performance. Do you get discouraged when you see sand topdressing on the putting green? Sometimes it needs a little help to avoid winter injury. WEST REGION, looking east to the Midwest, up to the north, or down to the south, as new ideas, techniques and solutions to problems often apply to other parts of the country. View updates from multiple regions as featured ideas, techniques and solutions to problems often apply to other parts of the country.