

## Methods of Minimizing Winter Damage\*

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Methods of minimizing winter damage to turfgrass vary in accordance with geographic region, location with respect to nearby terrain features, soil, kind of grass, management practices and the extent of use during adverse or critical periods.

In the case of golf greens located in central and southern regions, damage caused by traffic on frosted grass or partially frozen soil may be avoided or reduced by washing off the frost, delaying play or diverting play to temporary or alternate greens.

In northern climes, efforts to minimize damage center around providing adequate soil moisture, erecting snow fence and piling brush to collect and

hold snow and using organic mulches or polyethylene covers to insulate and conserve moisture. Such conditions favor disease development; therefore, it is necessary to treat with the appropriate fungicide to prevent or control winter disease.

Polyethylene covers produce a greenhouse effect in late winter-early spring. They stimulate early growth and minimize winter damage. This technique has proven to be of value in establishment of late planted greens and in stimulating early recovery of damaged sites. Tests show that clear four mil sheets are satisfactory.

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