

# Oh Traffic: Oh Clippings: Oh Stumps!

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**D**OES WINTER CART traffic damage bermudagrass fairways? *Figure 1* depicts a fairway in the Southeast that was subjected to cart traffic throughout one winter. *Figure 2* shows the same fairway with traffic removed from November through April. The winter of 1985 (*Figure 2*) was actually more severe than the winter of 1984, but compare the winterkill of bermudagrass.

This fairway has no irrigation, and fertility is a level of two pounds nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per year with equal amounts of potash. Judge for yourself if winter traffic removal can improve your fairways the year around.

Another tip for 1987 involves handling clippings. A *lightweight* trailer pulled behind a triplex mower is an excellent means of getting clippings off the course. A large barrel or similar device works well if you are using walkers and pulling them with a cart.

Clipping collections actually save time by not going out of the way to dump. It also eliminates the unsightly mess as well as the odor they often cause. Clipping collection and disposal in a compost adds an extra degree of grooming and professionalism to golf course management. This is especially true at courses surrounded by residential communities (*Figure 3*).

Finally, I've seen: The Vermeer stump grinder used very successfully for root pruning. This machine can be pulled at a very slow speed around a green or tee with little damage to the turf. A scar of only two inches or less is left, which makes the cleanup and healing time much less severe. Owners of this equipment say this procedure is not detrimental and is up to five or six times faster than conventional trenching to root prune trees. Remember, this procedure must be done along the drip-line and not too close to the trunk of the tree (*Figure 4*).



*Figure 1.*



*Figure 2.*