

MANAGING BUNKERS

MANAGING BUNKERS

By Todd Lowe (tlowe@usga.org), agronomist, Southeast Region and Bob Vavrek (bvavrek@usga.org), agronomist, Central Region



The USGA defines a bunker as a hazard consisting of a prepared area of ground, often a hollow, from which turf or soil has been removed and replaced with sand or the like. The term "sand trap" has been used to describe bunkers but should be avoided, especially when dealing with Rules officials. The terms "waste bunker" and "grass bunker" have also been used, but these areas are not hazards according to the Rules of Golf. The terms "waste area" and "grassy hollow" are more appropriate.

When describing bunkers, it depends on who you ask. Golf course architects might describe bunkers as aesthetic or strategic features whereas golf course superintendents might describe bunkers as "money pits" that consume endless resources. Furthermore, golfers may view bunkers as dangerous areas to be avoided or safe havens that provide easy recovery shots.

However they are perceived, bunkers are areas that receive an inordinate amount of attention at most golf facilities. From their simple origins as hollows on the leeward sides of sand dunes that sheltered livestock from cold sea winds, bunkers have experienced considerable evolution of design, construction, and maintenance over the years. So, too, have golfers' expectations for playability and consistency. The objective of this article is to address common bunker issues and offer tips to conserve resources.

[Read More](#)

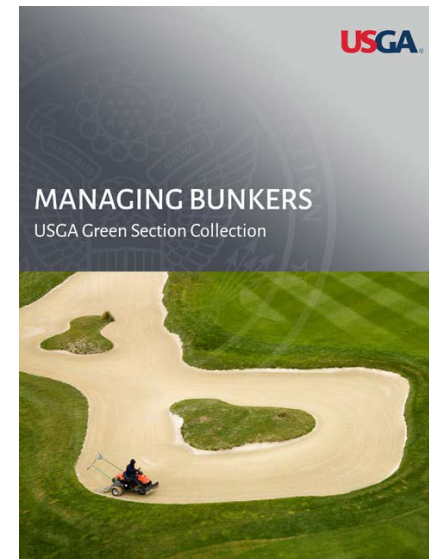


DIGITAL COLLECTION: MANAGING BUNKERS

The USGA *Green Section Record* now includes an interactive digital collection of supporting materials. In addition to the major article, each digital collection includes supporting articles, a photo gallery and videos that provide additional, relevant information on the subject.

The collections can be viewed online in a user-friendly digital magazine format, saved as a PDF or printed. We hope you find this new feature to be a useful resource.

[View The "Managing Bunkers" Collection Now](#)



FORE THE GOLFER

Bunker Consistency – Can You Handle The Truth?

Our experts explain why maintaining consistent bunkers is an impossible and financially unsustainable task. After all, bunkers are classified as hazards in the Rules of Golf.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)

RESEARCH YOU SHOULD KNOW

Research On Fine Fescue – The Rest Of The Story

Fine fescue will be on display at this year's U.S. Open Championship. While not the perfect solution for every golf course, researchers throughout the U.S. are working to evaluate and improve fine fescues for golf.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)

REGIONAL UPDATES

The USGA Green Section is divided into four regions staffed by agronomists who work with golf facilities on care of the golf course. USGA agronomists provide regular regional updates outlining current issues and observations from the field. Be sure to view updates from multiple regions as featured ideas, techniques and solutions to problems often apply to other parts of the country.



NORTHEAST REGION
Spring has sprung and whether you are struggling to keep up with rapidly growing rough, adjusting to the drier-than-normal conditions in the northern portion of the region, or starting to experience annual bluegrass weevil damage, this week's regional update offers helpful advice.
[Read More](#)



SOUTHEAST REGION
Do you still struggle with spring transition, or did extended cold temperatures damage your bermudagrass last winter? Learn how to alleviate some of the transition pains and discover what one North Carolina course is doing to combat winter-injury issues in this week's regional update.
[Read More](#)



WEST REGION
Managing turfgrass on salt-affected soils is challenging for many in the West Region. Fortunately, nature may offer a solution in an unconventional grass species - one which is working well in low-lying, poorly drained, salt-affected areas at one course in Colorado.
[Read More](#)



CENTRAL REGION
Recent heavy rains have been a welcome sight for many in drought-affected areas, but the resulting flash floods, disease outbreaks, increased weed pressure and even sinkholes may be affecting maintenance operations at your golf course.
[Read More](#)

SUBSCRIBE TO THE USGA GREEN SECTION RECORD

TEXT "GREENSECTION" TO "22828" OR [CLICK HERE](#)

Offering the latest information on golf course management, turfgrass culture, environmental issues, research and economic sustainability.

GOLF'S USE OF WATER RESOURCE CENTER

LEARN MORE ABOUT SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS >>

IMPORTANT LINKS

- [USGA Privacy Policy](#)
- [USGA Green Section Home Page](#)
- [USGA Staff Contact Information](#)
- [Course Consulting Service Information](#)
- [USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Online \(TERO\)](#)
- [Policies for the Reuse of USGA Green Section Publications](#)

©2015 by United States Golf Association®

Policies for the Reuse of USGA Green Section Publications

USGA Green Section publications are made available through the courtesy of the United States Golf Association (USGA®). The reuse of these materials is authorized only if the following conditions are met in their entirety. This policy applies to all Green Section publications, including articles, videos, presentations, and webcasts.

- 1) Adherence to all components of our [Conditions for Reuse policy](#).
- 2) Inclusion of the appropriate Reprint Permission Language.
- 3) Notification of your Intent To Reprint Content.

The USGA Green Section Record (ISSN 2156-5813) is published biweekly via electronic mail by the United States Golf Association®.

Golf House, Far Hills, NJ 07931
USGA Green Section
908.234.2300