

Troubleshooting Problem Greens

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Every golf course has at least one - the putting green that never seems to perform as well as the others. In other instances, many greens on a golf course may fail to meet the expectations of the golfers. Regardless of the number of greens involved, frustration and even anger boil over when putting green quality does not live up to golfer expectations. Fortunately, options are available to improve problem greens. Although problem greens will not be perfect overnight, improvements can be made to improve putting green performance over time.

Multiple factors contribute to poor putting green conditions including shade, poor air movement, concentrated traffic and poor drainage. Furthermore, poor putting quality may be the result of inherent problems on a given putting green that cannot be overcome through daily maintenance. Troubleshooting problem greens starts with

identifying the factors that can limit putting green performance. This should be followed by evaluating each green to determine whether one or more factors are affecting playing conditions. It is then time to determine the changes that are needed to produce greens that consistently meet golfer expectations.

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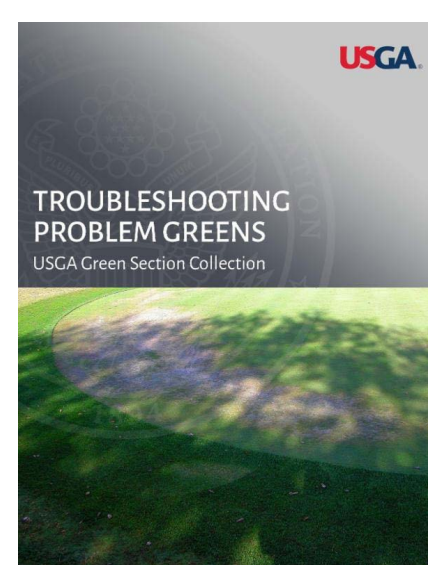


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The USGA *Green Section Record* now includes an interactive digital collection of supporting materials. In addition to the major article, each digital collection includes supporting articles, a photo gallery and videos that provide additional, relevant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

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FORE THE GOLFER

Putting Greens Are Like Your Golf Game

Our experts explain that just like your golf game, putting green performance depends on many factors.

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RESEARCH YOU SHOULD KNOW

The National Mall and Putting Greens

The National Mall in Washington, D.C. is being renovated. The Trust for the National Mall has jump-started a major, multiyear renovation, which includes the restoration of the turfgrass, soils and drainage on the National Mall.

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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

From wet weather to contaminated fungicide recalls, superintendents throughout the region have been facing a variety of challenges that are out of their control. Be patient as maintenance staffs work diligently to improve conditions.
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SOUTHEAST REGION

The USGA Green Section Internship Program offers students from around the country the unique opportunity to travel with USGA Green Section agronomists as they conduct Course Consulting Service visits. Learn about the experiences shared by the interns in the Southeast Region in this week's regional update.
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WEST REGION

Most high-quality putting surfaces have one thing in common - a deep, healthy root system. Promoting a healthy root system is imperative before summer stress and requires the diligent management of multiple factors. How healthy is your root system? Learn how to evaluate root health in this week's regional update.
[Read More](#)



CENTRAL REGION

Recent rainfall is interfering with more than your game of golf; it also is preventing routine golf course maintenance practices. Be patient as additional practices, like venting putting greens, are implemented to address agronomic issues before summer.
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