FLUSHING GREENS: MORE THAN JUST HEAVY WATERING

This article outlines the following five-step program to improve the flushing of putting greens:

1. Soil and water testing
2. Calculating irrigation requirements
3. Applying gypsum, wetting agents and/or soil amendments
4. Core aeration
5. Grooming

This is a specific program that requires more than just saturating the greens with water. All steps must be carried out as follows:

1. **Soil and water testing**
   - Necessary to determine the irrigation requirements and to ensure that the application of gypsum, wetting agents, and soil amendments is effective.

2. **Calculating irrigation requirements**
   - The standard to which the ultradwarf bermudagrass is going to be maintained must be known before future cost estimates can be calculated. The higher the standard, the greater maintenance costs will be.

3. **Applying gypsum, wetting agents and/or soil amendments**
   - This practice is used to prevent the development of layers in the upper profile of putting greens. It helps in flushing out the greens and ensuring that they are well maintained.

4. **Core aeration**
   - Aeration is essential for the healthy growth of the turf, as it removes the thatch and allows for better water infiltration.

5. **Grooming**
   - This involves the use of a tine or rake to remove the thatch and debris from the greens. It helps in maintaining a uniform surface and ensures that the greens are free from debris.

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