

HOW IT'S DONE

DAILY MAINTENANCE FOR REEL MOWERS

BY JOHN FOY



UNDERSTANDING WATER RELATIONS IN SAND-CHANNEL DRAIN MIXES

SOIL PHYSICAL PROPERTIES DETERMINE THE PERFORMANCE OF BACKFILL MATERIALS FOR DRAINAGE TRENCHES

Norman W. Hummel, Ph.D.



Installing sand-channel drainage can improve the performance of poorly-drained areas, but special attention must be paid to the physical properties of the backfill material to ensure best results.

Managing soil water is one of the most important aspects of managing golf course turf but probably one of the least understood. One common misconception is that soil permeability (infiltration rate) is the same as water retention. Soil permeability is not the same as water retention. A rootzone mix with a high infiltration rate is not necessarily a dry mix. Conversely, not all mixes with low infiltration rates are "wet." Not understanding the difference can and will result in problems.

One example in which we see the consequences of this is in backfill materials for sand-channel drainage projects on putting greens. A common concern that superintendents have when installing sand-channel drains in greens is that drain lines will dry out before surrounding areas and require frequent handwatering. This is a valid concern as the backfill will dry out sooner if the mix does not hold as much plant-available water as the surrounding rootzone mix.

Common misconceptions about managing soil water often lead to poor performance of sand-channel drains, especially on putting greens. Know which soil physical properties matter the most when selecting backfill material for drainage trenches.

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GOLF COURSE WATER FEATURES NEED MANAGEMENT

WELL-DESIGNED WATER FEATURES THAT RECEIVE BASIC MANAGEMENT ATTRACT MORE THAN ERRANT GOLF SHOTS

Jim Skorulski, senior agronomist, Northeast Region



Bubblers circulate and help oxygenate water in ponds. Both actions help reduce phosphorous that is available to algae, improve water quality and benefit fish and other organisms.

While traveling across New England, I come across good, bad and downright ugly ponds and lakes. The good ponds appear to be healthy, vibrant systems that serve many functions while complementing the landscape. On the other hand, bad ponds and lakes may be functional but are usually disfigured with deteriorating banks and seasonal algae and weed problems. The design of ugly lakes and ponds is often about as inspiring as stock farm ponds (no offense to stock-farm-pond owners that may read this).

How do water features at your facility rate? Are they assets or liabilities? What level of management do they receive? This article provides an overview of typical golf course water features including techniques and practices that are used in the evaluation process.

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OUR FAVORITE QUOTES

"BUNKERS ARE NOT A PLACE FOR PLEASURE; THEY'RE FOR PUNISHMENT AND REPENTANCE."
—OLD TOM MORRIS

As the Green Section agronomists travel the many countries visiting courses, many quotes are shared and gathered. In this section, we will share some of our favorites. Please note that for many quotes it is impossible to credit the original author since the origin is often unknown.

FORE THE GOLFER
ISN'T HANDWATERING
WASTING WATER?

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WORLD'S LARGEST TURFGRASS
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FROM THE ARCHIVES

"DOES THE WORK
OF FOUR MEN"
(1920)

[CLICK TO VIEW](#)



This advertisement for a new mower was posted on page 5 of the February 1920 issue of American Golfer. The ad stated: *Coldwell's Motor Lawn Mower and Roller pays for itself many times in the wages it saves. Does 4 men's work. Geared to 4 miles an hour - easily operated. Long wear. The latest ride type machine. Weighs 1100 pounds on the drive rollers, 40-inch cut. Useful on parks, estates and country clubs. Coldwell Lawn Mower Company - Office and Factory: Newburgh, New York. Chicago Office, 62 East Lake St., Chicago, Ill.*

REGIONAL UPDATES



REGIONAL UPDATES

The USGA Green Section is divided into eight 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

August is here, back-to-school sales are in full swing and many superintendents in the region are thinking about aeration, but make sure to evaluate your turf and its health before pulling the trigger on August aeration. This regional update provides some points to keep in mind as you consider an upcoming cultivation.

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MID-ATLANTIC REGION

Golfers throughout the region are enjoying better-than-normal late-summer playing conditions and many are quick to praise maintenance staffs for doing a "better" job than last year. However, don't be so quick to dispel Mother Nature's impact on turf management, because weather conditions this year have been mild compared to recent summers.

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SOUTHEAST REGION

On Aug. 11-17, a field of players will compete in the 2014 U.S. Amateur Championship at Atlanta Athletic Club. This regional update presents three things every turf geek needs to know about the turfgrasses at Atlanta Athletic Club.

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FLORIDA REGION

The USGA Green Section is holding a half-day education session at the Florida Turfgrass Association's 62nd Annual Conference and Trade Show Sept. 9-11 at Buena Vista Palace Hotel and Spa. Topics will include renovation, naturalized roughs, water conservation and golf course ponds.

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NORTH-CENTRAL REGION

Naturalized roughs can be low maintenance, help reduce water use and create habitat for wildlife while providing striking contrast to maintained playing surfaces. But managing naturalized roughs to meet unreasonable expectations can be difficult, especially if quirky combinations of grass species were used during establishment.

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MID-CENTRAL REGION

Every golf championship has a story, and for the 89th and final U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship at Sand Creek Station in Newton, Kan., the community stepped up in a big way to assist with daily course preparations.

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NORTHWEST REGION

Trees are a common topic of discussion during USGA Course Consulting Service visits. While trees can provide many benefits to a golf course, they can also negatively impact turf health and pace of play. Discover what one golf facility in Washington has done to help members "see the light" when it comes to getting to the "root" of the problem with trees.

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SOUTHWEST REGION

Hot, humid weather has superintendents concerned about turf. But for some golfers, bunker conditions seem to be a higher priority. Rather than compromising the efficiency of your irrigation system by moving irrigation heads away from bunkers, this regional update offers suggestions to help maintain drier bunker conditions.

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