

WEBCAST



FAIRWAY TOPDRESSING

BY ADAM MOELLER

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED - A USGA STAFF OPINION

CAN DISEASE BE LINKED TO POOR BERMUDAGRASS TRANSITION?

Brian Whitlark, agronomist, Southwest Region



Large patch was sighted in this 419 bermudagrass fairway overseeded with perennial ryegrass in mid-December 2013.

In the Desert Southwest, some diseases may be more active during spring transition than once previously thought.

Turf diseases like large patch and bermudagrass decline historically have not been identified as significant stresses that may delay bermudagrass recovery following overseeding. Is there a possibility that these organisms are responsible for more damage to bermudagrass than previously credited?

The objective of this article is to increase awareness of these diseases in the Desert Southwest and to discuss options for turf managers and course officials realize the challenges facing collars throughout the growing season.

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PUTTING GREEN COLLAR PROBLEMS AND HOW TO PREVENT THEM

COLLARS RECEIVE CONSTANT ABUSE THAT OFTEN GOES UNNOTICED UNTIL THEIR APPEARANCE AND PLAYABILITY DECLINE

Darin S. Bevard, director, USGA Championship Agronomy



This hedge restricts available turning area for mowers, forcing operators to turn on the collar, which has declined due to mechanical stress caused by concentrated traffic.

Putting green collar (or apron) management has been challenging for many golf courses in recent years. Most golfers do not realize the constant abuse imposed on the narrow strip of turf that separates the putting green from its surrounds, which can lead to turfgrass decline that is unsightly and detrimental to playability. More importantly, golfers often perceive collar problems as a shortcoming of maintenance practices or neglect. In some instances this may be true, but in most cases it is not. Understanding the factors that affect collar performance offers the opportunity to allocate resources for additional maintenance programs to reduce turfgrass problems on collars. It may also help golfers and course officials realize the challenges facing collars throughout the growing season.

The primary causes of collar decline must be identified and understood before collar problems can be prevented. Keep in mind that the factors discussed in this article are often found in combination with each other.

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OUR FAVORITE QUOTES

"A COMMITTEE IS A GROUP THAT KEEPS MINUTES AND LOSES HOURS."
—MILTON BERLE



As the Green Section agronomists travel the country 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.

It is the time of year when many courses are forming new green committees. [A Guide For Green Committee Members](#) is a free USGA Green Section publication that should be downloaded and provided to every committee member and course official that is involved with the management of the golf course. Committee members are also urged to visit [Information For Golf Course Officials](#), to view articles and videos specifically for you.

FOR THE GOLFER

USE OF THE USGA STIMPMETER

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This video is also available for streaming in Spanish

RESEARCH THAT MATTERS

FINE FESCUE IMPROVEMENT FOR GOLF COURSE USE

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

DO YOU KNOW THE HISTORY OF YOUR COURSE?

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It is unfortunate that so few courses have made the effort to document their history, no matter how short or lengthy that history may be. Your course's past may include famous people (perhaps before they were famous), milestone events tied to your community and photos documenting past projects. In the words of former USGA historian David Normoyle: "With every force in the world gnawing away at the time people have for golf, [courses] ought to be doing everything they can to become the kind of place people really want to spend time at and be members. The great thing about the past is that it's already done, it's paid for. You might as well take advantage." For a good article on how to get started, [Read More](#).

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

Although the summer of 2014 has proved to be an excellent season for growing grass in the Northeast, several recurring issues have been observed recently. Keep in mind that as fall approaches, addressing agronomic and infrastructure concerns can pay dividends when stressful conditions return in the future.

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MID-ATLANTIC REGION

Aeration is a common topic in mid-August that raises questions from concerned golfers throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. This regional update addresses two common aeration concerns and helps illustrate the importance of proper aeration timing and adequate topdressing.

[Read More](#)



SOUTHEAST REGION

Excellent drainage is one of the hallmarks of a course that is enjoyable to play throughout the entire year. Fortunately, excellent drainage may be achieved without excessive expense. Learn how one golf facility took advantage of a cart path and some inexpensive rubber curbing to improve drainage and playing conditions.

[Read More](#)



FLORIDA REGION

Root-knot nematodes can be extremely damaging, and their populations are often difficult to quantify. Fortunately, the proper sampling techniques described in this regional update may improve nematode-management strategies.

[Read More](#)



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.

[Read More](#)



MID-CONTINENT REGION

It is mid-August and this means aerators are firing up (or soon will be) at golf facilities across the country with bentgrass greens. Here's a top-10 list of ways to make core aeration as painless as possible.

[Read More](#)



NORTHWEST REGION

Part of conducting Course Consulting Service visits at a variety of golf facilities is observing and sharing creative solutions that turf managers craft to deal with various situations. This regional update highlights some creative solutions from our friendly neighbors in Canada.

[Read More](#)



SOUTHWEST REGION

Aeration is often viewed as a frustrating event by golfers, but this necessary practice pays dividends to the future health and performance of putting greens. Fortunately, a new trend is gaining popularity that helps achieve agronomic goals while reducing golfer disruption.

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