As the U.S. Open Championship at Chambers Bay in University of Washington, the golf course management focuses on creating the best possible playing conditions for the tournament. However, the preparation for the U.S. Open is a year-round effort involving a team approach.

Blake Blaine has joined the USGA Green Section as West Region turfgrass agronomist. He has a strong background in golf course management and is skilled at both creating and maintaining fairways and greens. Blake has been involved with a number of major golf tournaments including the Masters Tournament, the British Open, the U.S. Open and the PGA Championship. He holds a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degree from the University of Illinois. He has held internships at Bel-Air Country Club and served as assistant golf course superintendent at the University of Illinois. He also has extensive experience managing one of the most challenging golf courses in the world - the Torrey Pines South Course, where he led a team to an impressive performance in the 2013 U.S. Open. Blake has a strong enthusiasm for the golf industry and has first-hand experience with the agronomic challenges facing golf courses in the West Region. He looks forward to sharing his insights and expertise with the Green Section.

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The collections can be viewed online in a user-friendly digital format. This includes supporting articles, a photo gallery and videos that provide additional, relevant information on the subject. The digital collection, DIGITAL COLLECTION: TURFGRASS DISEASE MANAGEMENT, includes articles on managing turfgrass diseases. In this article we will discuss diseases that continually challenge superintendents. We will discuss progress, areas in which more research is needed to assist our understanding of diseases and provide solutions or approaches to disease management. We will focus our discussion on putting greens, but readers also will surely be reminded of similar disease-management situations on tees and fairways. For the purpose of this article, we will discuss diseases on bentgrass, Poa annua and bermudagrass greens. However, a tremendous amount of knowledge and skill also plays a role in the art of managing turfgrass diseases and other turf issues. Disease epidemics happen in the context of time. Some diseases - such as Pythium blight or rapid blight - literally can destroy stands of turf overnight. Disease outbreaks can be traced to changes in components of the classic disease triangle: susceptible hosts, favorable environments and virulent pathogens. Disease outbreaks can be unexpected and cause severe damage. In almost all cases, disease outbreaks are prevented or managed through a logical approach. In this article we will discuss diseases that continually challenge superintendents. We will discuss progress, areas in which more research is needed to assist our understanding of diseases and provide solutions or approaches to disease management. We will focus our discussion on putting greens, but readers also will surely be reminded of similar disease-management situations on tees and fairways. For the purpose of this article, we will discuss diseases on bentgrass, Poa annua and bermudagrass greens. However, a tremendous amount of knowledge and skill also plays a role in the art of managing turfgrass diseases and other turf issues.