Beyond The Primary: A Guide For Lower Maintenance And Naturalized Roughs

By Jim Skorulski, agronomist, Northeast Region

Low-maintenance and naturalized roughs can be a darling, the devil or a little of both depending on their use, placement and surface. The concept of naturalizing low traffic rough areas seems wide range of responses from both managers and golfers. On the surface, the concept of naturalizing low traffic rough areas seems means to reduce management inputs, conserve water, and establish beneficial wildlife habitat. Like many well-intentioned ideas, the devil is often in the details as is sometimes realized when programs are implemented to establish naturalized or low-maintenance roughs.

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CENTRAL REGION

Bob Vavrek Named Regional Director

Bob Vavrek has been named Regional Director for the Green Section's Central Region. Bob will lead the Central Region staff and coordinate activities in this 13-state region.

Bob Vavrek joined the USGA staff in 1990 and has played an integral role in the Green Section department. He has conducted thousands of Course Consulting Service visits, written hundreds of articles for the USGA Green Section Record and other publications, and been the agronomist at many USGA championship courses. He will continue to reside in Milwaukee, WI as he leads the Central Region staff.

Bob Vavrek will assume his new role immediately.

NORTHEAST REGION

View Updates From Multiple Regions

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.

REGIONAL UPDATES

NORTHEAST REGION

Bermudagrass Greens

Have you ever putted on bermudagrass greens and noticed that one side of the hole looks ragged? There wasn't anything wrong with how the hole was cut, but understanding why this phenomenon occurs just might improve your putting.

SOUTHEAST REGION

Cool Season Seeds: A Must for Homeowners

cool-season turf. Whether seeding your lawn or overseeding a golf course, follow the helpful steps in this week's regional update to ensure your seeding program is a success.

MIDWEST REGION

Environmental Success in the West Region

Trends are occurring throughout the West Region. While some of these trends are challenging, they also can serve as valuable diagnostic tools. Taking advantage of weather extremes can help identify infrastructure weaknesses and areas for future improvement.