

## Naturalized Rough Management

### 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 management.

Mention the words "naturalized" or "low maintenance" when referring to the rough areas on a golf course and you will receive a wide range of responses from both managers and golfers. On the surface, the concept of naturalizing low traffic rough areas seems to make good economic and environmental sense by providing a 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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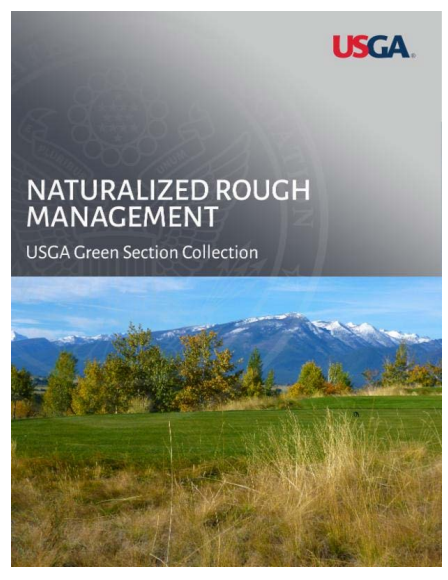


### DIGITAL COLLECTION: Naturalized Rough Management

The USGA *Green Section Record* now includes an interactive digital collection of supporting materials. In addition to the major article, each digital collection includes supporting articles, a photo gallery and videos that provide additional, relevant information on the subject.

The collections can be viewed online in a user-friendly digital magazine format, saved as a PDF or printed. We hope you find this new feature to be a useful resource.

[View The "Naturalized Rough Management" Collection Now](#)



### Bob Vavrek Named Regional Director

Bob Vavrek has been named Regional Director for the Green Section's Central Region. Bob will lead the Green Section's programs to help advance the USGA's organizational mission and oversee the department's activities in this 13-state region.

He 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 Green Section Record and other publications, and been the agronomist at many USGA championships. He will continue to reside in Milwaukee, WI as he leads the Central Region staff.



### FOR THE GOLFER

#### Putting The Natural Back Into Naturalized

When it comes to weeds – it's personal. Our experts explain why one person's most hated weed is another person's favorite wildflower.

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### REGIONAL UPDATES

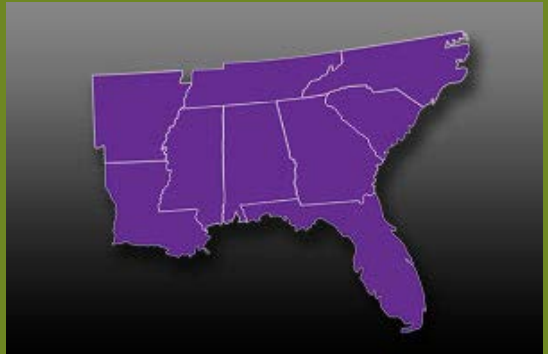
The USGA Green Section is divided into four regions staffed by agronomists who work with golf facilities on care of the golf course. USGA agronomists provide regular regional updates outlining current issues and observations from the field. Be sure to view updates from multiple regions as featured ideas, techniques and solutions to problems often apply to other parts of the country.



#### NORTHEAST REGION

While weather extremes can make maintaining healthy turf challenging, they also can serve as valuable diagnostic tools. Taking advantage of weather extremes can help identify infrastructure weaknesses and areas for future improvement.

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#### SOUTHEAST REGION

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.

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#### WEST REGION

Trends are occurring throughout the West Region. While some of the trends are helping golf courses deal with mandatory reductions in water use, others are helping attract a new generation to the game.

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#### CENTRAL REGION

The stresses of summer are coming to an end and many golf courses are anxiously awaiting the milder temperatures to overseed 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.

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Offering the latest information on golf course management, turfgrass culture, environmental issues, research and economic sustainability.



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