

FEBRUARY 5, 2016

Green Section Record

Managing Mower Setup to Achieve Quality Putting Surfaces

By [Brian Whittark, agronomist, West Region](#)

Golf courses, by and large, are judged based on the condition of their putting greens. Every golfer enjoys putting on uniform surfaces that roll true.

A dense, healthy stand of turfgrass that is smooth and consistent should be the goal for all golf facilities, regardless of budget. Some may think that golf courses operating on a shoestring budget do not have the resources to produce and maintain quality putting surfaces – this is not necessarily true. All golf courses can maintain smooth surfaces for golfers to enjoy when the agronomic staff makes a commitment to quality. Part of that commitment is recognizing that equipment setup can have a significant impact on the most fundamental practice of maintaining quality putting surfaces, proper mowing.



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Multimedia Content



Webcast: Mower Setup Impacts Putting Green Surface Quality

Understanding the characteristics of modern putting green mowers and their implications on quality of cut, mowing height and mower aggressiveness can help you achieve quality putting surfaces at your course.

[View Video](#)



Video: USGA Maintenance - 1/100ths - What Does 0.01 Mean?

Have you ever found yourself wondering how these precise cuts are made to ensure that turf is properly maintained for the high quality level of a USGA championship? This short video takes you behind the scenes to learn what 0.01 means, and more importantly, how it's obtained.

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Digital Collection: Equipment Management For Golf Courses



The USGA *Green Section Record* includes an interactive digital collection of supporting materials. In addition to this issue's 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.

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Research You Should Know



Brushing - When Does It Hurt The Turf?

Superintendents have concerns about brushing putting greens too often and damaging the turf. What are the benefits of, or stresses caused by brushing bentgrass greens?

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Fore The Golfer



So, You Want To Have a Backyard Putting Green?

The ability to practice in the comfort of your home sounds appealing, the expertise and equipment necessary to maintain a smooth, fast putting surface should not be taken lightly.

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Regional Updates



West Region

Rebuilding a chronically poor-performing green may seem like the logical answer, but a closer look may reveal why one green continues to struggle while others do not.

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Northeast Region

The growing season will be upon us before we know it. Before your workload gets too heavy, consider creating low-maintenance, pollinator-friendly plantings to further improve your local environment.

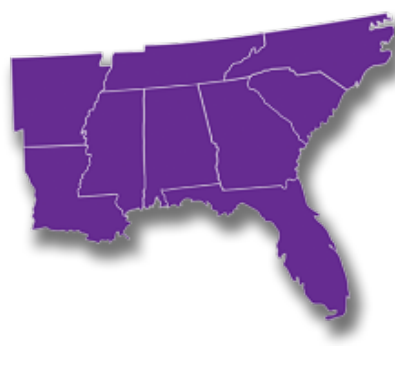
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Central region

A partial thaw of the ice and snow accumulations on putting greens provides an opportunity to document the association between evergreen tree shade and winterkill. All you need are warm clothes, a digital camera and a sunny day.

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Southeast Region

As El Niño continues to impact golf courses in the South, it is important to communicate with golfers, document problem areas and make plans to address problem areas during the coming summer.

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United States Golf Association
77 Liberty Corner Road
Far Hills, NJ 07931
908.234.2300

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