

# Green Section Record

Volume 56, Issue 3

## USGA Greens: 58 Years Of Innovation And Counting

 By [Elliott Dowling](#) and [Bob Vavrek](#)


The USGA Recommendations for a Method of Putting Green Construction are the most researched and used construction recommendations in golf. When properly built and maintained, putting greens constructed according to the USGA Recommendations have consistently provided excellent results in a wide variety of environments for many years. Around the world, thousands of putting greens have been successfully built using the USGA Recommendations. But getting where we are today required years of experimentation, field

observations and university research.

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### Multimedia Content

#### Course Care Video



#### USGA Putting Green Construction Recommendations Explained

Golf originated hundreds of years ago in Scotland, but a lot has changed since. Over the years, putting greens evolved from indistinct linksland to become sophisticated, engineered playing surfaces. Of all the putting green construction methods, no method has been more researched or field tested than the USGA Recommendations. Get a glimpse into the decades of history behind the USGA Recommendations.

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#### Infographic



#### What's Under The Surface Of A USGA Putting Green?

Putting greens may appear to be quite simple from the surface, but there's a lot going on beneath your feet. When constructed following the USGA Recommendations, a putting green is a complex system. This cross-sectional infographic allows you to peer beneath the putting surface to see exactly what has allowed the USGA method to perform successfully at golf courses around the world for almost 60 years.

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### Photo Gallery



#### Ten Tips For Success When Building A USGA Putting Green

Building a putting green according to the USGA Recommendations takes several steps; but when properly executed, each step ensures the longevity of a putting green. This photo gallery highlights some of the most important putting green construction steps.

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#### Research You Should Know



#### USGA Recommendations: The Revision And Key Changes

The USGA Recommendations for a Method of Putting Green Construction have been successfully used by golf courses around the world. A comprehensive review process has kept the Recommendations up to date with the latest research and technology for almost 60 years. Get a behind-the-scenes look at the review process and a sneak peek at some changes for 2018.

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#### Fore The Golfer



#### Building Putting Greens On A Firm Foundation

Building a putting green is kind of like building a house. If you start with a solid foundation, your chances of having a comfortable home for years to come are pretty good. USGA Recommendations for a Method of Putting Green Construction provide a solid foundation for putting greens. Here's how they improve the odds of a better playing experience.

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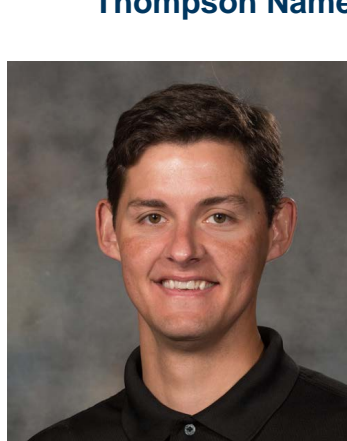

### 2018 GOLF INDUSTRY SHOW



Visit the **USGA** in **San Antonio, Texas**  
February 3-8, 2018 | Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center

**BOOTH #**  
**10077**

### Thompson Named Assistant Director, Green Section Research



Dr. Cole Thompson has joined the USGA staff as the assistant director of Green Section Research. Originally from Beloit, Kan., Thompson earned his bachelor's, master's and Ph.D. degrees from Kansas State University. He was a USGA Green Section intern as an undergraduate and briefly worked as an assistant superintendent before entering graduate school. Prior to joining the USGA, Thompson was a faculty member at the University of Nebraska Department of Agronomy and Horticulture. In his new role, Dr. Thompson will assist with the administration of the USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research program, working closely with Dr. Mike Kenna, director, Green Section Research. Thompson will identify research areas that have potential to improve playing conditions and golf course management sustainability. He will be based in Dallas, Texas.

### Regional Updates



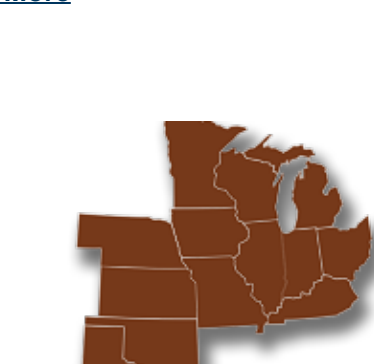
#### West Region

Although it is only the second day of February and overseeded ryegrass is about to look its best, it is time to start encouraging the understory bermudagrass. Here are five strategies that will ease the transition.

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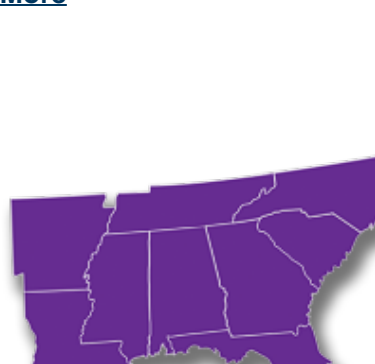

#### Northeast Region

Some superintendents are rightly concerned about turf conditions and it's only the midpoint of the winter season. Here's an up-to-date recap of this winter's erratic weather pattern and its possible implications on turf conditions.

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#### Central Region

Superintendents are reacting to frigid conditions followed by periods of mild temperatures. Even if the winter weather is the same, the best tactic is to implement winter management strategies that are specific to each facility.

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#### Southeast Region

Turf at many golf courses barely went dormant last year, but this year has been quite the opposite. Fortunately, a cold winter isn't all bad news. Here's the good, the bad and the ugly of cold winter weather in the Southeast.

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### Course Consulting Service

Find out how a Course Consulting Service visit can help you improve course conditions and reduce costs.

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