



The Green Sheet

Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

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Recruiting Class

Rick Woelfel

May 1, 2019

Passionate turf professionals in Maryland are reaching out to the next generation to pass on what they know and help maintain industry health.

It's no secret that the turf industry is dealing with a labor shortage. Enrollment in college turf management programs is on the decline and superintendents are finding it increasingly difficult to find qualified applicants to fill open positions.

Some Maryland superintendents are taking steps to deal with the situation, taking different paths to the same destination by reaching out to students of varying ages.

Ryan Kraushofer is the superintendent and general manager at Westminster National Golf Course, a public facility in Westminster, Md. He's been around the turf industry since he was 12 and currently serves as president of Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents and its roughly 400 members. Kraushofer looked into the First Green program, which originated in the Pacific Northwest some two decades ago. The aim of the program, which now operates under auspices of the GCSAA, is to introduce students to the turf industry.

Kraushofer's program involves fifth graders. This spring, he scheduled three field trips, one each in March, April and May. The excursions involve roughly 100 students each and are a blend of education and fun.

"We're teaching them about soils found on golf courses and the different types of grasses," Kraushofer says. "We're teaching them about area calculations, how important proper area calculations are for golf course superintendents when it comes to seed, fertilizing, and putting down our pesticides and fungicides.

"And then we teach them about water conservation. We let the kids use moisture meters and explain that we don't necessarily need to water the entire green. We can take hoses out and just hit hot spots.

"Then we have our putting station and a station we created that we call the 411 of golf. We teach them a little bit about physics and how you need to be able to identify your golf ball, so we let the kids draw their name or whatever they want on to a golf ball. And then these kids will break down into a driver group, a pitching wedge group and a 5-iron group, and then we have a pro hit their balls down one fairway."

The students then measure the difference in distance between shots hit with a driver as opposed to a 5 iron, making the conversion from feet to yards in the process.

Kraushofer notes it's becoming increasingly difficult to find qualified help for his staff and thus increasingly important for him and his peers to engage in outreach efforts.

"It's harder for superintendents to find summer help," he says. "We've posted ads for assistant superintendents. It's getting hard to find qualified candidates or people that want to become an assistant superintendent, just because the enrollment in turf schools is way down."

Tyler Bloom leads the golf course maintenance efforts at Sparrows Point Country Club, a private facility just east of Baltimore. Like Kraushofer and his colleagues elsewhere in the state, Bloom is finding it increasingly difficult to find qualified applicants for openings on his team because of his budget versus the wage scale in the region.



Targeted recruiting has helped Sparrows Point (Md.) Country Club fill open positions on its golf course maintenance crew.

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June President's Message



Greetings,

Well only a few more weeks left, right? As I am writing this it is supposed to be 94 today and 90 something for the next 3 days. Oh joy!! At least the nights are longer. They always say that helps I guess. By my next message we will be well into September and recovery from this season will have begun for most.

Speaking of recovery -- what better way to recover and take a day to de-stress than to join us in September up at Huntsville Golf Club for our September meeting. It is a little bit of a hike, but as a top ten golf course in PA and a great speaker dropping some knowledge for fall recovery, I am sure that we will not be disappointed that we made the trip. I know Jeff Fry is excited to host a meeting and see a lot of familiar faces.

At our August board meeting we were able to somewhat solidify our venues for next year's meetings, look at setting up an annual scholarship fund raising event and start to dial in speaker options for the Winter Ed meeting among other accomplishments. We are ahead of the game for the first time in several years and it feels good to have the board operating the way it is supposed to be.

The big push coming soon will be to get board members in place for 2020 and beyond. If you are a superintendent or an assistant you are eligible to be on the board. If you have ever thought about making the move to volunteer to be on the board now is the time. There is a small time commitment to be made, but as I am sure any current or past board member will tell you it is a rewarding and gratifying experience that you will not regret. The networking opportunities alone make it worth it to serve the association as a board member. Please let myself or any of the other board members know if you are interested in running for the board and as always feel free to call me anytime if you have questions about the commitment it takes to be on the board.

Just remember the next time you take a couple minutes to read my ramblings it will be mid-September and we should all be able to breathe a little bit and actually remember exactly why we decided to get into this business. Hope to see you all at Huntsville!

Bring on September,

Jeff Green
President - CPGCSA

2019 DSL Nominations

The Board of Directors is seeking nominations for the 2019 Rafferty Award. This award recognizes dedication, leadership and service to CPGCSA and its members.

This award is designed to honor current and former superintendents attaining a minimum of 14 years association membership. This is the number of years Dave was a CPGCSA member. All classes of membership shall be eligible to receive the award although superintendent or retired superintendent nominees will receive favored consideration. The award is dedicated to a superintendent who worked hard for our association. Other classes of membership will not be ignored but must show outstanding dedication, leadership and service.

We have many deserving members. Please return nominations by August 31, 2019.

Applications are included with the August newsletter email or contact cpgcsa@hotmail.com

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Recruiting Class Continued from Page 1

“I kind of recognized my approach on things wouldn’t be to go after the college interns or postgraduates,” he says. “I was going to have to build from the ground up at every level of my operation from the assistant level, all the way down to the person who just walks through the door.”

Keeping Turf Professionals After They Start

Separate from the challenges involved in encouraging students to pursue a career in the turf industry are the challenges of retention.

Jon Lobenstine is the director of agronomy for Montgomery County Golf, which owns and/or manages nine year-round public courses in Montgomery County, Md., near Washington, D.C.

During the peak of the season, Lobenstine’s agronomic staff numbers nearly 90, but he’s lost six employees in the last 18 months.



“They’re looking for a similar type of job working outdoors where they get weekends off,” he says. “Many have gone on to be managers at landscaping companies, or even work for the local parks system on athletic fields.”

Lobenstine urges superintendents to reveal the unique requirements of the profession when targeting prospective employees.

“I think it’s important to emphasize that this is a career for people who love working outdoors, that love variety in their daily work,” he says. “I think there are a lot of positives you can emphasize in this type of work.”

Lobenstine notes a superintendent’s job description can include long hours, although the situation varies from one facility to another.

“There’s so much variety at every golf course,” he says. “I think that there’s almost something for everybody out there. Not everybody is going to go work at a \$2 million facility that has a staff of 35 and that kind of stuff. You’ve got mom-and-pop courses and 9-hole facilities and lower-budget facilities that can be less stressful and provide a little more forgiveness in the schedule.”

Lobenstine adds that students thinking about a career in turf management might find themselves drawn to the industry’s technology.

“Everybody loves cool technology,” he says. “Engage them in discussions, especially at a career day, and show them some of the cool gadgets that we use, between moisture meters and various sensors, and talk about the environmental positives, the green space, all that kind of stuff. I think there are things that can really connect with certain people.”

“We had challenges with just bringing in general laborers through routine channels, whether that was through websites or newspaper ads. I kind of knew we needed to find a different recruiting method.”

A solution to his problem arrived four years ago when a guidance counselor from a nearby Baltimore County high school (the city and county of Baltimore are separate jurisdictions) walked into his office and wanted to discuss the idea of a work-study program for his students.

“At the time, I really didn’t connect the dots that this could be an internship program,” Bloom says. “It was just getting bodies in the door, getting the high school students in, and it was just through trial and error and just talking and integrating with the students that I realized ‘My God. They don’t even know that this is a career.’”

Since that time, with the support of the Baltimore County school system, Bloom has brought in additional work-study students from six different high schools. The first, Adam Naribanchik, is now his first assistant. “I have five or six guys right now that have all kind of followed Adam’s path,” Bloom says.

That path includes a work-study curriculum in which the student attends school half a day and spends half a day working with

.....continued on Page 4.....

Recruiting..... Continued from Page 3

Bloom at Sparrows Point.

“This is a full 12-month program,” Bloom says. “I really try to hire people in the fall and early spring, sometimes even in the winter, so I can get them introduced into a workplace culture because they have no basis for that.”

Bloom says the program not only give the students a real-time lesson about the importance of a work ethic, but provides them with an overview of the career paths the turf industry offers.

“Somebody’s got to show them what it’s like to work on a golf course and give them the direction,” he says. “This is a career. You don’t need to be a superintendent or an assistant, but you can go into sales, you can go into landscaping, you can work on sports fields.”

Bloom has considered developing a statewide apprenticeship program for aspiring turf professionals. He’s had several meetings with officials from the Maryland State Department of Education on the subject.

Dean Graves will retire in June from his post as the superintendent at the Chevy Chase Club, just outside Washington, D.C. But Graves is looking to stay connected to the industry as a mentor. He points out that he not only has the desire to give back to his profession, but will also have the time to help developing a mentoring program for students that might want to consider a career in the turf industry.

“I can go to different high schools in different counties,” he says. “Go there and actually give a presentation to students, parents, or both.”

Graves envisions a formal mentoring program that would be affiliated with local school systems. “The superintendent would have to qualify for it,” he says. “It’s not like (the student) would be a summertime employee. They would actually come and fill out an evaluation. How they’re progressing, how they’re learning, are you being mentored? It’s not just having somebody come in on weekend to fill divots, it’s taking them under our wing to teach them.”

Graves notes that he has mentored a member of his own staff who is now looking at pursuing a degree in turf management. Graves wants students — and their parents — to know they can make a good living in the industry. His immediate goal is to put more students on that path.

“We’re hoping that we get the numbers up,” he says. “If we get one out of 10 (students) to continue in the profession, I think that’s a pretty good ratio. Right now, we don’t have the 10.”

<https://www.golfcourseindustry.com/article/golf-industry-recruiting-school/>

Membership News

We would like to welcome the following individual into our association

Seth Re..... Assistant Superintendent
Hanover Country Club..... Class C

If you know of anyone who is interested in membership into the association, please have them contact Wanda at 717-279-0368 or cpgcsa@hotmail.com.

*Please see a list of our Association
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**Membership information is also available
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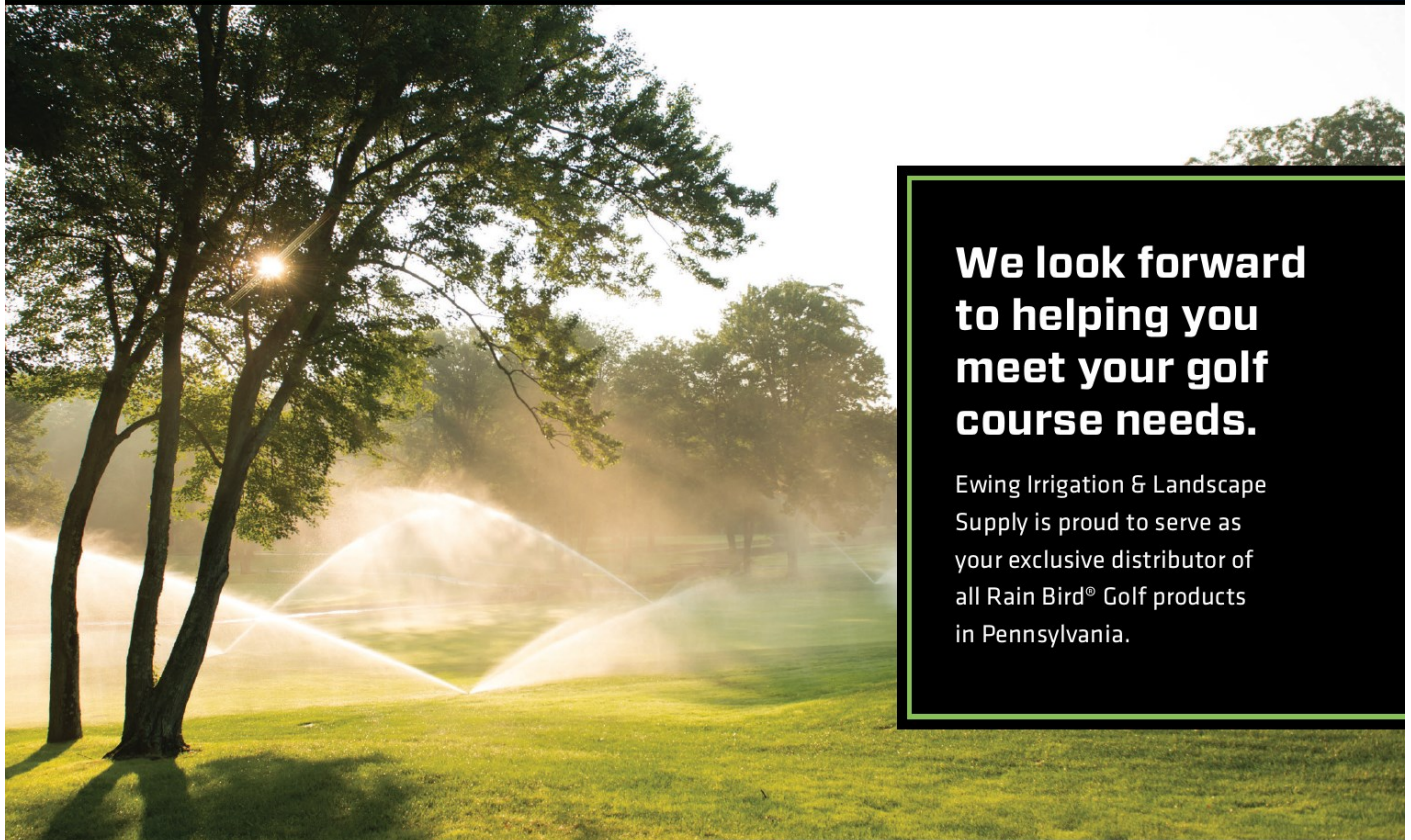
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13 Tips For Better Putting Green Collars

Collars tend to take a beating for the sake of putting surface playability. A turf consultant offers recommendations for curbing collar decline and improving appearance.

June 2009 | Steven McDonald, M.S.

Collars are extremely important to the playability and aesthetics of a golf green complex, creating definition between the putting surface and the rough. However, collars are among the most difficult areas to manage through the summer months, especially on golf courses with high-density cultivars of creeping bentgrass (*Agrostis stolonifera*).

Over the past six years, I've consulted with more than 300 golf courses in the Mid-Atlantic region, and I get many questions about collars: Is it disease or insect damage? Is it mechanical damage? What can be done to help collars look and perform better?

As a researcher and turfgrass consultant, I make recommendations based on science and data, but unfortunately, there hasn't yet been specific research conducted on collar management and maintenance practices, and there is only one published discussion on this subject (Dernoeden, P.H. 2002. Creeping Bentgrass Management: Summer Stresses, Weeds and Selected Maladies. John Wiley & Sons Inc. 32-35.). In that discussion, Dernoeden notes that the decline of collars is a "complex phenomenon."

To maintain putting green surfaces at the desired playability levels, collars are often subjected to extreme mechanical and environmental stresses. Here, I've compiled a set of 13 potential solutions (based on observational evidence) and management techniques for improving the appearance of collars.

1. Increase sunlight and air movement

For newly renovated or constructed greens, ultra-high-density bentgrass cultivars appear to require more sunlight compared with the older bentgrass cultivars, perennial ryegrass and *Poa annua*. This is especially true when they are subjected to concentrated wear and aggressive cultural practices.

The damage and stress from mowers turning and foot traffic is worse in shaded and wet areas. Turf managers should pay special attention to their irrigation practices and irrigate only those areas that are dry and not areas that are thinned from traffic, sand or other factors. The decline of collars is worse in wetter soils. Check irrigation heads in green surrounds to ensure they are not overlapping onto collar surfaces. If they are, adjust them if possible.

2. Schedule topdressing for cooler days

Although it's necessary to topdress putting greens and, to a lesser extent, the collars with sand, timing may increase the likelihood of injury. The warming of sand can damage leaf tips. The longest days of the year are in June, and many times the decline of collars begins in late June and continues through the summer. Sunlight duration and sun angle increase the warming of sand particles. A study at Ohio State showed that the canopy temperature of a Penncross putting green increased by 18 degrees following topdressing. A similar canopy temperature effect can occur on collars wherever the sand from bunker shots lands.

Be aggressive with topdressing only when the weather allows. This may only be April, May, September and October (Mid-Atlantic region). When topdressing is on the agenda, be sure to watch the forecast for daytime high temperatures for the next seven to 10 days. If temperatures will be near 90 F on any of those days, topdressing may do more harm than good. If there is a five- to seven-day period in the summer when days will be cool (<85 F), then light amounts of sand may be prudent.

If you plan to get aggressive and topdress during the heat, try to keep sand off the collars. Also, topdress when the canopy is dry so the sand particles can move down to the stem bases and off the leaf tissue. This may prevent much of the heating and subsequent damage to the leaf tips.

3. Make your leaf blower do double duty

Use a leaf blower to blow the sand off the collar canopy after topdressing or prior to mowing the green in the morning. This should



Collars present a unique management challenge for golf course superintendents. Generally, the most problematic areas are near bunker complexes and the front and back of greens.

Photos courtesy of Steven McDonald



This collar-height creeping bentgrass has begun to decline. Notice that the stem bases of these plants are healthy and that all damage is to the upper canopy. Some of the leaves have small pinholes, which were caused by the abrasive properties of extremely angular sand.

reduce the abrasive properties of the angular sand. Following days of heavy play, it may be wise to whip or blow sand off the green and collar areas around bunkers. Many collar areas that thin quickly are typically adjacent to bunkers that routinely come into play.

Be careful not to “stand up” creeping bentgrass plants that have elongated, which may lead to scalping. Some bunker sands can be extremely angular and cause damage to leaves.

Although blowing sand off the collar is labor-intensive, it may reduce the injury to collars.

4. Keep your mower turns covered

Use mats, rugs, plywood or plastic lattice for turning the greens mower, especially in areas vulnerable to traffic. These covers prevent the torque and twisting of the mower as it passes over or turns on the collar. Merely passing the mower over the collar, with the back roller moving the machine, can produce enough friction to cause mechanical injury to bentgrass.

Collar decline is rarely an issue where triplexes are used to mow greens, perhaps because traffic doesn't become concentrated in the same areas, or because there is less torque than there is from the rear roller that propels a walk-behind mower. This indicates that the torque of walk-behind greens mowers turning on concentrated areas contributes to collar decline.

I have noticed that collar decline is typically worse in spots that are sandy, wet and highly trafficked, and where hand mowers have little room to turn. Wear from greens mowers also appears to be worse on sloped surfaces of collars. Typically, this is the front and rear of the green and adjacent bunker complexes. These areas are also the most problematic for maintaining creeping bentgrass on collars.

5. Slightly increase amounts of nitrogen

Because collars have a lot of traffic and equipment turning on them, providing extra fertility for them will help the plants recover more quickly. When collars decline, it's usually the leaf tissues that are affected more than the stems. An increase of 0.2-0.3 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per month during the summer would have a large impact on stimulating growth of leaf tissue.

Use a drop spreader with granular fertilizer so that more nutrients will be taken up by the roots and by the crowns, which form the key carbohydrate storage organ. Use a natural organic fertilizer that contains no urea or other sources of water-soluble nitrogen that may cause burn in summer.

6. Use aggressive creeping bentgrass cultivars

Cultivars such as Penncross, PennTrio and Princeville have shown some promise for use as collar turf compared with the ultra-high-density cultivars (A-1, A-4, G-2 and G-6). Older cultivars (such as Penncross) seem to produce more leaf tissue to withstand traffic better and also appear to have better recuperative ability. I have seen golf courses throughout the Mid-Atlantic region sod or seed Penncross or perennial ryegrass into collars after a single season of little success managing high-density bentgrass cultivars.

Cultivar selection may be only one small factor in bentgrass collar decline.

7. Seed perennial ryegrass into collars

Mechanical damage is less likely to occur to perennial ryegrass (or, to a lesser extent, *Poa annua*) collars than to creeping bentgrass collars. Perennial ryegrass has a bunch-type growth habit with a lot of upright leaf tissue, through which sand more easily moves into the lower crown tissue. Perennial ryegrass has excellent wear tolerance, which is why it is commonly used in Europe for high-traffic field sports like soccer. Creeping bentgrass, which is stoloniferous, produces a lot of horizontal leaf tissue. Basically, there is more leaf surface area exposed to damage when managing creeping bentgrass.

Some superintendents are concerned about the color contrast between perennial ryegrass and creeping bentgrass. Although color may be an issue, healthy turf that has a different color is better than bare ground. I encourage superintendents to attend university field days to observe NTEP trials or study the data online. Local Extension specialists or consultants can discuss lighter-color ryegrass cultivars that will grow in your area. Color data also are available on the NTEP website.

It is important to note that some of the lighter-color cultivars did not score well on gray leaf spot (caused by *Pyricularia grisea*) resistance, but this should not be a concern on collars if they are spray-treated with the greens.

8. Mow dry collars

Mowing collars in the late morning or early afternoon when they are dry may help reduce the torque of reel-mowing leaves that are



During summer, turning mowers on a physical cover reduces mechanical wear to collars from walk-behind mowers. Over time, even moving the mower over the collar and turning in the rough will cause the collar turf to decline.

covered with or embedded in sand, because the roller will slip less on a dry canopy. This should also help knock the dry sand off the leaves and down into the crown area, where it should be.

9. Make all roller turns on the putting green turf

Do not allow “sidewinder” greens rollers to touch the collar, except coming onto and off the green. The pivoting of the sidewinder-type machines causes friction because of the weight and large surface area of the roller. I have not observed significant damage from a roller to greens-height turf. This may be because there is not enough leaf tissue on the greens to cause the damage, or because the tissue is mowed off before it shows the signs of roller stress. On golf courses that do not roll, I rarely see collar decline like I do at courses where rolling is performed frequently.

When it comes to rolling, proper employee training is critical. If possible, limit rolling to the green surface only and avoid rolling following applications of sand. Target rolling to a small portion of the green that is important on that day, which is another practice to reduce concentrated mechanical stress and damage. If you are using a side-by-side roller, try making no more than five passes on each side of the hole. By rolling a smaller portion of the green, turf on the other portions of the green will be able to recover.

10. Consider lowering height of cut

Mowing height definitely affects the amount of leaf tissue present to be damaged. Most superintendents who lower the mowing height on their collars report that the collars appear to recover well. What I believe is happening is that a lower and less dense canopy holds less sand from topdressing or bunker spray. This allows the sand particles to fall through the leaves and into the crown, where they don't cause significant damage.

Although lowering the height of the collars from 0.300 to 0.250, for example, may help reduce the visual injury to the plants, it could create other agronomic issues down the road.

11. Apply a granular soil surfactant or wetting agent monthly

Collars typically wilt sooner and require more hand watering than putting surfaces. Many times, the wear in hand-watered collars is worse. Often, the heavy wear on collars is mistaken for wilt, so some golf course employees will continue to add more water, making the conditions worse.

Using a soil wetting agent may reduce the need to hand-water the collars and reduce some of the wear. Many newly constructed greens have a plastic barrier that separates the greens mix from the native soil, and the point where the barrier and the native soil meet may be one of the first areas to rapidly dry out. Apply a soil wetting agent on both sides of the barrier to reduce the need to heavily water collars.

12. Spread out traffic

Dernoeden noted that collar damage is greatest in walk-on and walk-off areas. Also, many newer golf bags have stands to hold them up, and the base of the bags may be placed on a collar in the same general area over and over again. This is common on courses that have caddies.

Use signs and ropes and properly rotate hole locations to help spread the traffic and allow the collar turf to recover.

13. Scout for pests and fungal diseases

Pests such as the annual bluegrass weevil (*Listronotus maculicollis*; also referred to as the Hyperodes weevil) and Pythium-induced root dysfunction (*Pythium* spp.) are generally the worst on the perimeter of greens and collars. Turf managers should scout for these pests and determine whether plant protection materials are warranted before making applications. Consider recent mechanical practices (topdressing, frequent rolling, etc.) when determining whether the cause of collar decline is biotic or abiotic.

Collar decline is a complex and dynamic problem, and it may take different strategies to reduce it, especially in young bentgrass.



The front portion of this collar was originally 100 percent creeping bentgrass. After a single season of declining, perennial ryegrass was substituted and has improved the surface. The downside of using perennial ryegrass is the darker green color contrast with creeping bentgrass.



During periods of stress, applications of granular fertilizer and, possibly, soil surfactants may improve the health of collars. The fertilizer helps the plants recover more quickly from mechanical damage, and surfactants help reduce the need to hand-water.

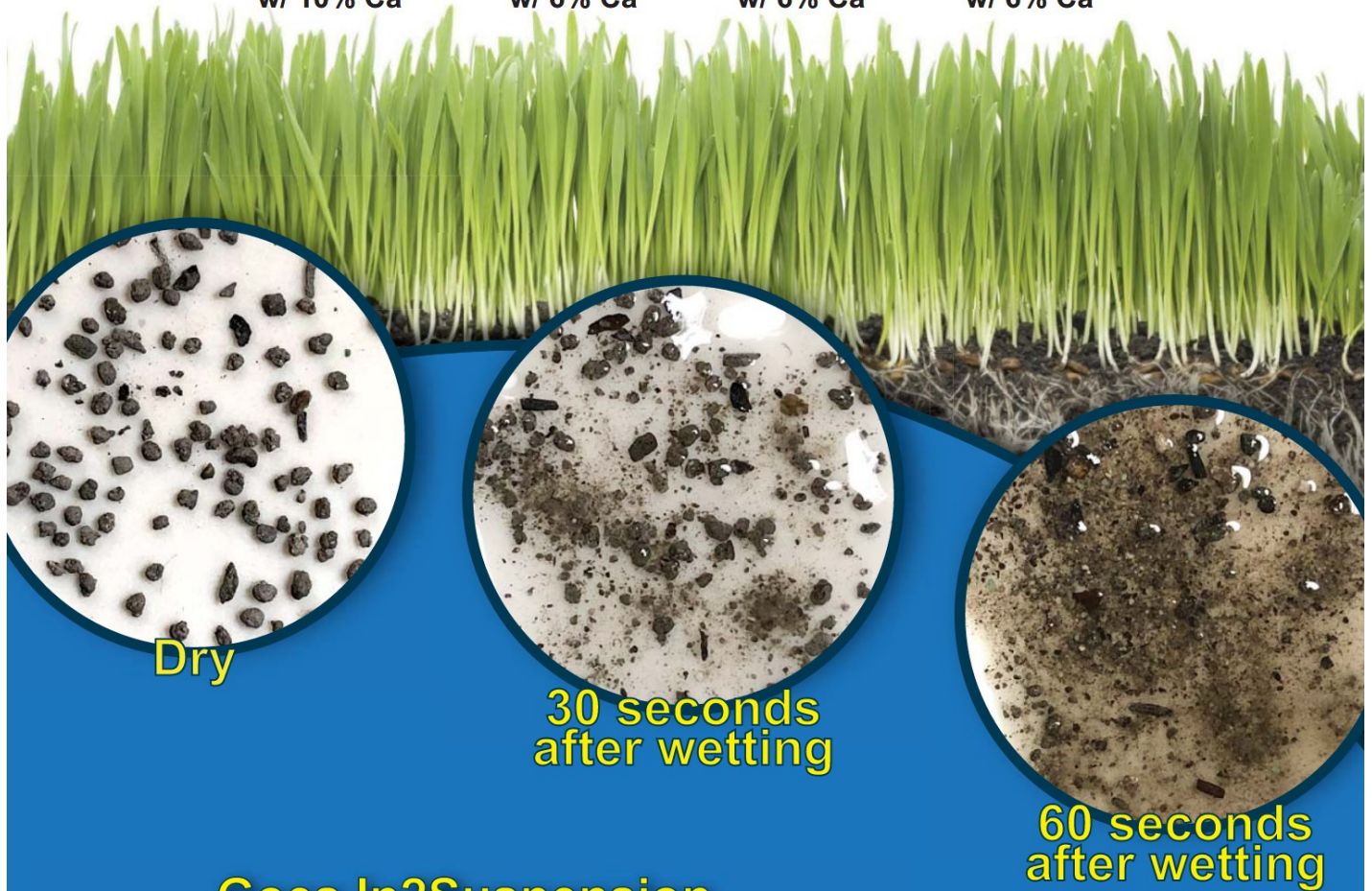
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July 2018; Ctrl-C, Ctrl-V

By Paul Jacobs, USGA Agronomist, Northeast Region
August 2, 2019

The recent weather – hot, humid and wet – has felt a lot like the summer of 2018. Turf response hasn't been much different either. Courses that invested in drainage, fans or tree removal in response to a wet 2018 are holding up well this year, despite challenging conditions. However, if changes were not made, this year is providing another great opportunity to identify areas of weakness so that a plan can be put together for future improvements. When evaluating drainage on the golf course, it is always a good idea to “plan when it's wet, install when it's dry.”



Anthracnose and algae on a bentgrass and Poa annua putting green.

Some common topics discussed during recent Course Consulting Service visits in the Northeast and practices to help deal with them are outlined below:

- **Algae** – Blue-green algae is common when turf surfaces remain wet for prolonged periods of time. While algae can be an indicator of poor drainage, excess organic matter or overwatering, the recent weather has provided more than enough moisture to encourage algae development. Growing healthy turf is the best defense against algae. Improving air movement, sunlight and drainage are critical to prevent algae. Once algae develops it can form a layer on the surface that will inhibit turf recovery. Venting, light verticutting during favorable weather, and frequent sand topdressing will break through the algal layer, helping the surface to dry and improving recovery. When used in combination with these cultural practices, chlorothalonil and mancozeb are also effective to help manage algae.
- **Anthracnose** – Although no major outbreaks have been observed, small isolated incidents of anthracnose have been common in the past couple of weeks. Slightly raising the height of cut, making regular sand topdressing applications and providing sufficient nitrogen to produce moderate growth will help reduce anthracnose severity. Although the DMI fungicides can be effective to control anthracnose, overuse can result in stressed turf and an open canopy – both of which will promote algae. Use other fungicide chemistries during periods of excessive heat.
- **Crabgrass and Goosegrass** – Most facilities were able to make the necessary preemergence applications this spring, but in some cases high rough areas or primary rough may not have been treated due to extremely wet conditions. Breakthrough has been observed in areas that were treated this spring, and areas that were not treated are easily noticeable. Excessive rain likely plays a role in the breakthrough we are seeing. For better preemergence control in future years, consider splitting the spring preemergence application into two separate applications. To improve preemergence goosegrass control, Ronstar can be applied. If applying Ronstar to cool-season turf, use the granular formulation and apply when the foliage is dry. There are several options for postemergence control of these weeds, but herbicide selection depends on the type of turf being managed. Contact your regional USGA agronomist for information on postemergence control options that meet your specific needs.

2019 hasn't been an easy year so far, but look at the glass as half full and use this summer as an opportunity to educate stakeholders as to why improvements such as drainage, selective tree removal and perhaps installing fans is necessary to improve turf health and reliability.

<https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/course-care/regional-updates/northeast-region/2019/july-2018--ctrl-c--ctrl-v.html>

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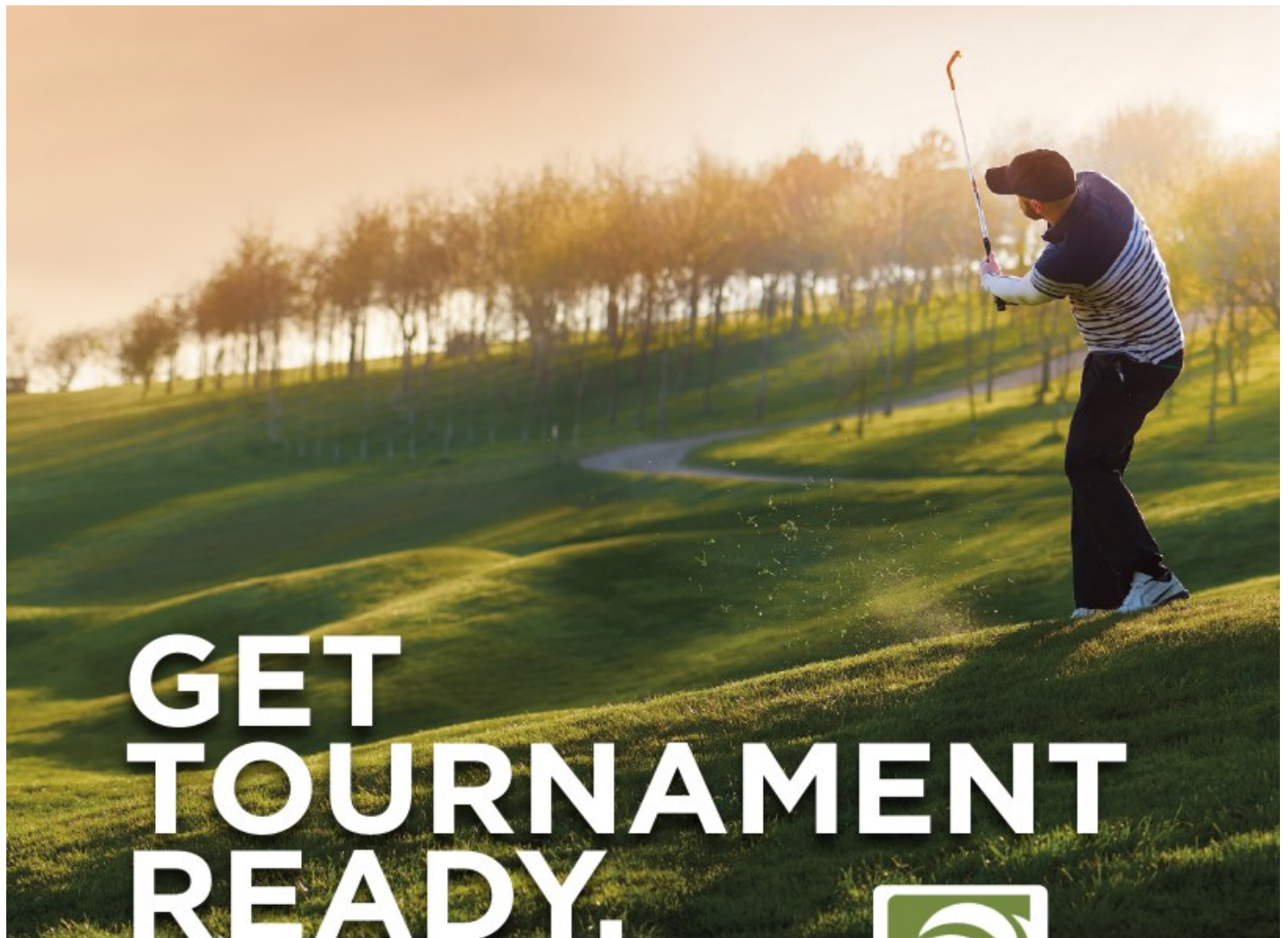
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5 Things Every Golfer Should Know About Aerating Greens

September 7, 2017 | FAR HILLS, N.J. By The USGA Green Section Staff

The ins and outs of AERATION



Aeration: An essential practice that improves the long-term health and playability of golf courses

No golfers are ever thrilled to arrive at a course, only to find that they will be putting on greens that have just been aerated.

The USGA’s Green Section has been helping golf courses deliver the best possible playing conditions for nearly 100 years. USGA agronomists work with golf facilities across North America to help them create and maintain environmentally and economically sustainable golf courses that give you the best playing experience, even if you have to occasionally play on aerated putting greens.

Aerating putting greens might create a short-term disruption in your game, but the long-term benefits greatly outweigh the inconvenience. Learning more about why and how superintendents aerate putting greens can make it easier to be patient during the process. Here are five things every golfer should know about aeration:

1. **We aerate to improve, not annoy**

Putting greens receive more traffic than any other playing surface. The aeration process helps relieve the compaction caused by all that traffic. It also helps create a firm, smooth putting surface by control ling thatch and promoting healthy turf roots.

2. **Scratch the thatch**

Thatch is a layer of old plant material that accumulates at the soil surface. If thatch on putting greens is not diluted by aeration and topdressing, it will act like a sponge, holding water near the surface. Excessive thatch creates soft playing conditions, inconsistent green speeds and increases the risk of disease.



Putting green aeration is never popular, but it is an essential part of providing consistent, high-quality playing conditions. (USGA/ George Waters)

.....continued on Page 14.....

Aerating Greenscontinued from Page 13

3. Timing is everything

Do you ever wonder why aeration is commonly performed when putting greens are playing their best? Aerating when grass is healthy and actively growing minimizes damage and allows for a quick re turn to optimal playing conditions. Aerating at other times may be more convenient for the golf schedule, but it lengthens recovery times, increases the risk of an invasion of weeds and could cause lasting damage.

4. It's not as bad as you think

It may seem like there are more holes than grass on the putting greens right after they've been aerated, but this is an illusion. Typically, aeration affects less than 10 percent of a putting surface.

5. Sand is part of the plan

A heavy application of topdressing following aeration may appear to make putting greens less playable. However, filling aeration holes with sand actually helps create a smoother surface. Sand also creates channels for water and air movement, dilutes thatch and helps putting greens re cover from aeration more quickly.



Filling aeration holes with sand speeds up recovery and helps make the putting surface firm and smooth. (USGA/George Waters)

To learn more about aeration and other important course care topics, visit the Course Care section of USGA.org.

<https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/clubhouse/2017-ungated/09-17-ungated/5-things-every-golfer-should-know-about-aeration.html>



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Research Snapshot:

Family Golf

by [National Golf Foundation](#)

While golf can be a solitary game, golfers play with family or friends more often than not.

Approximately two-thirds of golfers say they played golf on a course with a friend/colleague in the last 12 months and a similar percentage reported playing with a family member.

Family plays a major role in the game of golf, particularly in the early stages. NGF research finds that kids in a household where dad or mom plays golf have a 1-in-4 chance of playing the game themselves. But for those children without a parent who plays golf, the odds of playing is 250-1.

<https://www.thengfq.com/2019/08/ngf-research-snapshot-family-golf>



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Almost two-thirds of golfers say they played a round of golf with family members last year (63%)

(e.g., parents, spouse, children, grandparents, grandchildren, siblings)

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4.2 million
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23% of golfers say they played with a spouse or significant other last year.



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Wednesday, September 18, 2019

Huntsville Golf Club

30 Hayfield Road
Shavertown, PA 18708

Hosts:

Jeff Fry - General Manager
Mark McCormick, Golf Course Superintendent

Registration..... 10:00 AM
Speaker 10:15 AM
Lunch 11:15 AM
Golf..... 12:00 Noon
Appetizers/Cash Bar Following Golf

Golf Attire – Collared Shirt/No Jeans

- Join us for a fun filled day at Golf Digest's #10 Best Course in Pennsylvania
- Huntsville Golf Club is currently celebrating it's 25th Anniversary.
- We will also be joined by Members of the Pocono Turfgrass Association
- Max Schlossberg, Ph.D will be our Educational Speaker
- Golf Format – 2 Best Balls of Foursome

Lunch/Golf/Tournament/Appetizers: **\$85.00**

Deadline: **September 11, 2019**

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Don't Sleep On Tees

By Elliott Dowling, USGA Agronomist, Northeast Region
August 16, 2019

Most tees should be cultivated at a similar intensity as putting greens. Firmness is an especially important quality for teeing surfaces because firm surfaces help golfers maintain their footing and stability while swinging. Firm tee surfaces without excessive organic matter are also healthier and better able to withstand foot traffic than soft and wet surfaces. Additionally, healthy soils with an appropriate amount of organic matter yield healthier turf that can recover faster from wear. With the amount of concentrated traffic and divots that some tees receive, recovery will be closely linked to their condition throughout the year.

Understanding the importance of organic matter management and plant health might lead you to wonder why tees are not cultivated more often. There isn't one answer to this question because tee management is very course dependent, but if this summer has taught superintendents in the Northeast one thing it is that you can't sleep on tees. Most of the Northeast experienced a very hot, humid and sometimes wet July. Consequently, there was a lot of turf decline on tees that was related to saturated soils and excessive thatch.

To improve future performance without going down the path of rebuilding tees with drainage and a better growing medium, the first place to start is usually cultivation. Frequent aeration and topdressing will remove and dilute thatch. Aeration is especially important if your surfaces have an excessive amount of thatch. Impacting playability with aeration should be less of a concern on teeing surfaces because all players have a perfect lie when they place the ball on a tee.

The weather pattern experienced this summer will occur again in the Northeast. If your tees declined this year, don't let it happen again because of organic matter holding water at the surface. Increase cultivation so that thatch is lowered to a healthier level that will support more reliable turf in the seasons to come.



Decline like this occurred on tees throughout the Northeast. The primary reason was excessive organic matter holding moisture during extreme heat.

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2019 Meeting Schedule

September 18th
Huntsville Golf Club

October 21st
Moselem Springs Golf Club



The Green Sheet

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