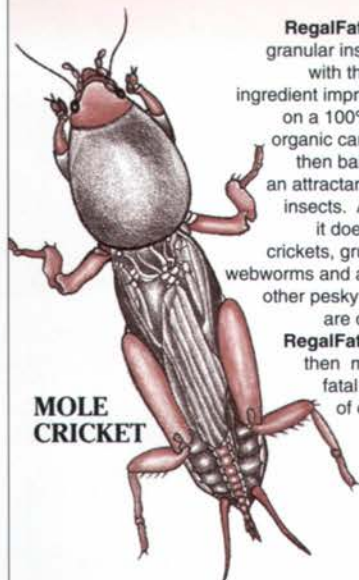


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Letters..

...to the Editor

Dear Joel:

To your "Green Side Up" column, Winter '96 issue, pg.88, nothing more needs to be said. It is a powerful treatise suitable for framing for review by members, players and the staff at every course.

Bravo!

Sincerely yours,

Terry Ward
Sales Manager
Milorganite Division - MMSD
Milwaukee, WI

Dear Terry,

Thank you for those kind words. Thanks also to those superintendents who called or spoke to me in person in Orlando to voice their appreciation for that piece. That one's for all of you!

Joel D. Jackson, CGCS
Editor

Dear Winter Season Golfers:

Throughout a portion of the eastern half of the country, a prolonged period of high daytime and nighttime temperatures during the late summer caused widespread turf loss at a number of northern courses. While hot and humid weather is normally expected during the summer in Florida, record-setting hurricane and tropical storm activity also occurred this year. As a result of the extremely heavy rainfall from June through October, facilities around the state experienced a variety of additional problems. The purpose of this letter is to advise everyone that this summer's weather is having an impact on winter season

course quality and conditioning.

Normal annual rainfall in South Florida averages 58-60 inches. In a lot of areas, this amount of rain was experienced in 3-4 months. During this time, two 100-year and a 25-year rainfall event occurred. In mid-October, a tropical depression hit the lower portion of the east coast and dumped 15-20 inches of rain in a 24-hour period. Total rainfall for the year will be in the 85- to over 100-inch range in many areas. To put this amount of water in perspective, an acre inch of water is 27,154 gallons. Thus, a 120-acre golf course that gets 60 inches of rain has to deal with 195.5 million gallons of water. This is obviously a tremendous amount of water and does not even take into consideration runoff from surrounding areas. With the persistence of a saturated soil and depletion of soil oxygen content, turf growth and development was negatively impacted for several months and, in some instances, turf loss or death was experienced due to flooding.

Further compounding matters was the occurrence of numerous heavily overcast days and a significant reduction in sunlight. The base bermudagrasses of Florida golf courses have an extremely high light requirement for sustained healthy growth. The early fall is a very critical time for storing of carbohydrates and preparing the turf to survive the winter months. As a result of the adverse weather, this was not possible, and thus courses throughout the state are having to go into the primary play season in a weakened condition. The early development of traffic wear problems is being observed at all facilities and is a direct consequence of the weaker condition of the base turf. A full recovery from this situation simply cannot be achieved until this next spring and early summer.

During Turf Advisory Service visits to courses around the state, a collective

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comment from superintendents is that they are six weeks to two months behind in their management programs and practices because of the weather. In particular, it has been very difficult to adhere to pesticide treatment programs for weeds and mole crickets. Here, too, it will be difficult to catch up over the next several months.

I would further point out that while winter overseeding programs will help mask problems, there is an increased potential for difficulties to be experienced in the spring to early summer when the transition back to the bermuda base begins to occur.

While the degree of the effects of this summer's weather has varied among courses around the state, it must be realized and accepted that prior environmental conditions have an impact of all agricultural endeavors. In addition to some understanding, patience and cooperation by the winter season golfers are needed this year.

If the USGA Green Section can be of assistance in any manner, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Respectfully,

John H. Foy
Director, USGA Green Section
State of Florida Region

Editor's Note: Thanks to John Foy and other Regional Green Section Directors for their support in helping to educate golfers everywhere about the challenges in managing high performance turf. Copy and post this article if you didn't receive and post the original letter that was sent out!

Dear Editor,

This letter is in regards to the Fall 1995 issue of the Florida Green that focused on bunker maintenance in the Hands On section.

I was working my way through the magazine, looking at the pictures and ignoring the "boring editorial at the back of the magazine", when I opened the section on bunker maintenance. This section was of particular importance to me due to the dramatic features that Arthur Hills added to Deer Creek in 1993. Superintendent Mike Hamilton, CGCS, at Grey Oak Country Club described how his crew was able to raise the mowing height of their Flymo's by adding a PVC frame under the mowing deck to raise the deck off of the ground. My assistant equipment technician called Grey Oaks to discuss these modifications. We mounted the PVC pipe onto our mowers and my bunker slopes are the healthiest they've been since they were grown in.

Thank you for putting together an issue that had a significant impact on our operation and the appearance of my bunker slopes. Thanks to Mike Hamilton, CGCS, and Sam

Arcure, Equipment Technician at Grey Oaks CC for their creativity and for sharing the information with other superintendents.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Klitz, CGCS
Deer Creek Golf Club

Dear Bob:

"Boring editorials" aside, Mike Hamilton, CGCS reports he received many calls on this idea. He added that he has modified

the PVC pipe installation using 45° fittings instead of 90's at the corners. He also filled any gaps between the pipe and the deck with epoxy to preserve maximum hover capability. Thanks for writing Bob. Your "ho-hum" letter illustrates perfectly what the Hands On Section tries to provide, a forum for sharing ideas!

Sincerely,

Joel D. Jackson, CGCS
Editor

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