

## Lightweight Rolling

**Question:** *One of the hottest items in our area is the new lightweight roller. I understand the potential danger of compaction, the uncertainty concerning the frequency of use, and the long-term effects from using lightweight rollers, yet do they really increase putting green speeds? Just how safe is a rolling program?*

**Answer:** In concept, the rolling of greens is safe if done wisely. Without question, you can gain 12-18 inches with the Stimpmeter from the use of lightweight rollers. However, this increased speed is very short-lived (sometimes 12-18 hours). If you do not raise mowing heights, increase

aeration, and top-dress regularly, turf loss could occur. There continues to be concern about compaction over both the short and long term. These questions will be answered with time, so at this point a conservative approach would be wise. When used sparingly (two-times a week) during the growing season, lightweight rollers smooth the putting surface, increase putting green speed, produce firmness and consistency, and have the potential of being a beneficial tool in a well-rounded putting green maintenance program. Rolling greens, as with any tool, can be used or abused.

—USGA Green Section Record

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## North Star Turf Adds Kerry Glader To Staff

North Star Turf has announced the addition of Kerry Glader to its sales staff. Glader will manage a territory that includes north central Minnesota and the northwestern portion of the Twin Cities metro area.

Glader, a certified golf course superintendent, brings with him more than 20 years of golf course experience including superintendent positions at Lost Spur Country Club and, most recently, St. Cloud Country Club. He served 12 years on the MGCSA Board of Directors, two of them as president of the association.

“Adding Kerry to our staff is a big plus,” said Dan Miller, president of North Star. “With Kerry in place we are able to better serve our customers by increasing customer contact and providing sound agronomic support and valuable product information.”

Glader assumed his new position on October 5.