

PEER-TO-PEER: BETTER TURF THROUGH NETWORKING

MGCSA members were asked: In the realm of the "green movement," what does sustainability mean to you?

The definition of a sustainable golf course is something to which I have given a lot of thought over the past few months. The definitions of sustainable when it comes to golf courses are endless. For us at Northland, a sustainable golf course means a golf course who's quality can be maintained or "sustained" regardless of economic, environment or any other possible condition we may encounter. - *Chris Tritabaugh, Northland Country Club*

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"Sustainability" relative to the Green Movement, means that if we plant 10 trees for every tree we cut down, we will never run out of trees. In the financial world: if we only spend the interest on our Bank Savings Account, we will never run out of income.- *Jack Hauser, Bluebird Recovery Program*

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Recognition that we are providing a

"playing surface", not producing a crop. Doing this with as few "inputs" as possible. Inputs meaning everything from fertilizing, pesticide applications, watering and all cultural practices. - *Scott Hoffman, The Classic at Madden's Resort*

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All aspects of turf management must include components to increase environmental literacy and compatability. Be aware, be proactive, work to minimize environmental effect and damage. - *Jim Hanson, Red Rock Golf Course*

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To me, sustainability on a large scale, means preserving natural resources for future generations. Regarding a golf course ecosystem, I believe sustainability is protection, maintenance, and enhancement of the ecosystem, so that the overall impact on the environment is positive. It begins with really caring about the envi-

ronment, and making decisions while managing the golf course which will improve the environment. We have a great opportunity in the golf industry to do this. - *Mike Brower, Minnesota Valley CC*

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Sustainability refers to one's ability to maintain productivity over time. From an ecosystem perspective, it may be defined as continued productivity through natural cycling of water, nutrients and carbon. In its pure form, sustainable turfgrass would refer to the ability of turfgrass to function without added inputs throughout time.






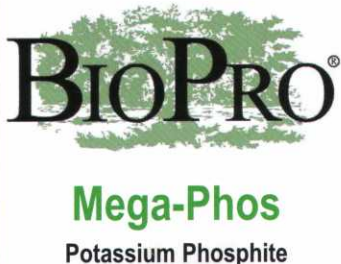
Unfortunately, this isn't possible. So from a functional perspective, sustainable turfgrass would need to define what function it provides to society and what the associated value of that function is. Only then will we be able to define turfgrass as sustainable.- *Dr. Brian Horgan, University of Minnesota*



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