

# Perimeter Management

*by Chris Tritabaugh, Superintendent at Hazeltine National GC*

Playing surface perimeter management has become one of the biggest issues in the golf course management industry. The bottom line when it comes to perimeter management is the control and management of concentrated mechanical stress. This sort of stress comes in many forms, but there is no doubt the prolific use of rollers in the maintenance of putting surfaces, has played a major role in increased perimeter stress. There are many ways in which we deal with this stress. First of all, it is important to recognize the perimeter of putting surfaces as a separate turf system from that of the putting surface proper. Perimeters need their own management program, both culturally and nutritionally.



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These are the areas which make up the putting surface perimeters. This photo was taken about two weeks ago; the yellowish turf was a bit week coming out of winter. Cultural and nutritional practice since, have this turf looking much healthier.



In addition to stress from our maintenance equipment; golfers, caddies and push carts also add to the stress. Out of courtesy, golfers and caddies walk around the edge of the putting surface. In this photo you can see how all of the tracks from the push carts funnel down to a small area on the right side of the seventh green. In the coming weeks, we are going to introduce an initiative aimed at getting golfers, caddies and even push carts to walk right across the putting surface. Stay tuned for more...

***The Championship***  
**Prestwick Golf Club**  
**August 13th, 2013**



Culturally, the perimeters need more work. In this case, you see a small core having been pulled from the collars.

A-4 bentgrass does not perform well at collar heights, for this reason all of the collars have been replaced with Dominant Extreme bentgrass sod. In order to get the best performance from sod, it must be core aerated often during its first couple of years. If this is not done, the sod never establishes as part of the turf system and its quality will decline during stressful periods.

*The Editor of the Hole Notes would like to recognize Chris Tritibaugh for saharing this article with his peers. Rather than collect the \$50 stipend for himself, Chris has requested the mones be donated to the Research Fund.*

**Did you know that a person burns up to 2,000 calories walking an 18 hole round of golf?**



Nutrition is another key aspect of maintaining quality perimeters. Just like the human body, when turf is stressed and working hard, it needs more nutrition than normal. In the case of the perimeters; they are under extra stress, thus they need extra food. Here you can see the perimeters being sprayed with some extra soluble nutrition. Over the course of the golf season, I expect the perimeters will receive double the nutrition of the putting surfaces proper.

***It was a sunny Sunday morning, and Murray was beginning his preshot routine, visualizing his upcoming shot, when a voice came over the clubhouse loudspeaker. “Would the gentleman on the ladies’ tee please back up to the men’s tee.”***

***Murray remained in his routine, seemingly unfazed by the interruption.***

***A little louder: “Would the man on the women’s tee kindly back up to the men’s tee!”***

***Murray raised up out of his stance, lowered his driver, and shouted, “Would the announcer in the clubhouse kindly shut up and let me play my second shot?”***