

GREENS ROLLING
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Greens rolling has been used at Grand Traverse Resort and Crystal Downs Country Club for tournament preparation. In 1992 Dr. James Beard conducted research at Crystal Downs and Grand Traverse, study the effects of greens rolling. Dr. Beard continued his research in 1993 at Grand Traverse, to and will be presenting the results of his findings at the 1994 GCSAA Conference in Dallas.

Rolling greens is generally used to create faster greens while maintaining healthy turf. The use of low mowing heights and multiple mowing typically reduce turfgrass health. Rolling may allow a turf manager to raise mowing heights and reduce mowing frequency and still achieve fast green speeds and healthier turf.

The turf manager must use good cultural practices to maintain healthy greens including: aerification, topdressing, verticutting, nutrient levels, irrigation, brooming or grooming, height of cut, frequency of mowing, an type of mower. Factors that effect green speed include: smoothness (spike marks), height of cut, soil moisture, slope, wind, dew and humidity. Other considerations include soil conditions--the desired effect of rolling to create a firm surface without compacting the soil.

When determining whether to roll or not, the turf manager should first consider all of the factors for healthy turf and fast greens. The turf manager must also consider how frequently to roll, as well as how many consecutive times to roll per day. The type, weight, and maneuverability of the roller must also be considered.

Rolling greens can provide firmer, smoother and faster greens, but caution and common sense must also be used in order to keep a healthy putting surface.