

LEAF MULCH FORUM “RESEARCH & REAL WORLD TECHNIQUES”**Kurt Thuemmel CGCS
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One of the most labor intensive tasks performed on a golf course can be the disposal of tree leaves during the fall months of the year.

Our previous method to rid the golf course of leaves, during this time of year, was to use blowers, vacuums, and to a certain extent out front rotary mowers. Many man-hours were consumed, especially with hauling to a drop-off site at one end of the property.

Presently, we are using blowers to concentrate the leaves before mulching with rotary mowers, both “out front” and larger “pull type” units. Mulching type blades are being used experimentally in order to evaluate their effectiveness. Weather conditions are important as far as achieving success in your leaf mulching operation. Dry conditions are always better when mulching leaves as opposed to damp and humid weather. Too much moisture can mean poor mulching and more clumping of the leaves which may result with a layer of clumped leaf litter smothering the turf.