

## Golf Stop 7

### Topdressing Crumb Rubber Into Putting Green Collars

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The use of crumb rubber as a topdressing material has proven useful in reducing wear damage, improving color, and reducing compaction, consequently improving overall turf quality. Putting green collars receive concentrated foot traffic damage due to limited exit and entry points to the putting surface. The potential for improving turf quality in putting green collars seems to be the next logical step for the use of crumb rubber as an important tool to the turfgrass manager.

This research is part of the USGA-funded project exploring the maintenance practices of three different putting green construction methods. There are three different root zone mixes: an 80:20 (sand:peat) mixture built to USGA recommendations; an 80:10:10 mixture with tile drainage; and an unamended sandy clay loam textured “push-up” style green. These greens are replicated three times and were built with the intent of comparing different soils managed under similar management regimes. Turf areas of each soil type are maintained as putting green collars at 3/8” and have received topdressing applications of crumb rubber at 1/8” and 3/8”, crumb rubber and sand mixed at 1/8” each, and sand topdressing alone acting as the check plot. The rubber and sand were applied at 1/16” rates over a period of 6 weeks.

Each soil type plot is split into two subplots, one rolled and one not rolled. Rolling treatments are applied three times a week to evaluate the effects of rolling across different soil types. Traffic is applied six times per week at 240 simulated rounds of golf to simulate typical wear on putting greens with a triplex greensmower modified with spiked rollers in place of reel units.