

It may be best to leave the cut low until the stress period has ended.

Frequent mowing promotes high shoot density and vertical leaf growth, which results in smooth, consistent greens. Varying the mowing direction daily also helps promote a more upright plant. Research has shown that a break in regular mowing can result in a brief, yet significant reduction in green speed.

Research at Ohio State has found that double cutting greens-mowing them twice a day-can significantly increase green speed. If pressure exists to increase the speed of the greens, double-cutting is an option to dropping the height of cut.

Grain appears when grass plants lie in different directions. In severe cases, shoots, stolons and rhizomes orient in various directions on the surface and interfere with the golf ball's proper roll.

Our work has shown that the difference of putting "with" moderate grain versus putting "against" the grain can vary as much as three feet. Effective grain control is a prerequisite for achieving uniform greens.

Verticutting helps reduce grain by promoting more upright growth and removing undesirable tissue. Verticutting is often done weekly during periods of active growth.

**The challenge to improving green speed is knowing what practices will work for you and the same time providing a visually appealing and healthy turf.**

*Chuck Dal Pozzo*  
Technical Representative

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The O. M. Scott & Sons Company



Brushing is a common practice for reducing grain. Brushing is the process whereby a stiff, bristle-type brush is placed in front of the mower. As the mower moves across the green, the brush lifts the turfgrass plant up before it is cut. Brushing is effective but can cause damage to the plant.

The best time to brush is under conditions that promote turfgrass growth. Time interval between brushing depends on the severity of the brushing and how quickly the turf recovers. Avoid brushing if the turfgrass is under stress.

Thatch plays an important role in green speed and quality. A small amount of thatch provides a certain amount of resiliency. However, excessive thatch disrupts the firmness and smoothness of the turf.

Priority should be set to control or manage thatch at an acceptable level. Vertical mowing, topdressing and coring are effective means of minimizing thatch. They should be done as a regular maintenance program.

Topdressing smooths the surface and provides a firmer base. Frequent top dressing is a positive step in providing a uniform turf.

Although topdressing and brushing may initially slow down a green, eventually they will increase its speed.

The challenge to improving green speed is knowing what practices will work for you and the same time providing a visually appealing and healthy turf.

And finally, for all practices that are available for increasing speed, the environment plays the critical role in what you can and cannot expect and do.

Article by Karl Danneberger as seen in July/August Issue of The Florida Green

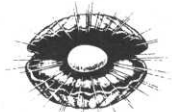
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