

SGA

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 being in the air for four seconds. The bottom line -- if you want your shot to hold, use balata balls and take a golf lesson, don't blame the green.

Green construction

Greens have been built using various methods and soil mixes which directly influence the firmness of the green. Several factors influence firmness, including: the size and shape of soil particles, bulk density, pore spaces for air and water, organic matter content, thatch accumulation, moisture retention, and several other soil physical properties. Many clubs have taken short-cuts while building new greens by selecting cheap construction materials and not having the materials tested by a laboratory. Then they wonder why the greens are like concrete. But even new greens will tend to be firmer during the first few years due to the lack of thatch and organic matter in the soil. Over a period of three to five years, new greens mature and become more resilient. In addition to the method of construction, the size and surface contours of a green

influence the ability to hold a shot. Are the greens pitched toward or away from the fairway? How big are the greens? Are they tiered or relatively flat? These are all questions related to architecture. Although the superintendent cannot be held responsible for the design of the course, maintenance can have a big influence on how a shot holds the green.

Maintenance

The conditions necessary for good putting quality do not equate to good shot holding capacity. After all, they are *putting* greens, not *land-ing* greens. For optimum putting quality, greens should be firm, smooth, and closely mowed. Many superintendents have been forced by uneducated committees to overwater greens so that poorly struck golf shots will hold the green. This is unwise for many reasons. Overwatering depletes oxygen in the soil, weakens the plant, and promotes disease development. Excessive watering also promotes foot-printing, surface irregularities and "monster" ball marks that detract from surface smoothness and cause putts to jump off line.

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WELCOME TO THE GREEN

Welcome to the following new GCSANC members:

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(30 day wait)
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Dave Kaplow
 Pacific Open Space, Inc.
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 Golden Bear Equip. Co
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Douglas Gaynor
 City of Modesto
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Leland Silva
 Harris Landscape Development, Inc
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ASSOCIATES

(30 day wait)
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 Greenskeeper

Perry Tarsitano
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Terry Leach
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 Class A

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