USGA Tips (Cont’d)

Spiking — Now that the water injection aerifier and other forms of small tine aerification are available, it seems that many superintendents have moved away from the practice of spiking greens. Spiking continues to be a good method to relieve surface compaction and open up the turf canopy for air and water penetration without causing significant surface disruption. It is also useful as a pretreatment for bentgrass seeding operations. Although the compaction relief is not as long-lived as other forms of aeration, spiking cuts stolons and helps to initiate new root growth. Many superintendents continue to use this tried and true management practice every one to two weeks during the summer with good results.

Modern technology has given us a variety of tools and products to produce the best possible putting green turf. While many of these products and practices have merit, it is important to evaluate your own conditions and implement these programs in moderation and with good common sense.