



Rolling Frequency On Bentgrass And Poa annua Greens

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How often can we roll our bentgrass/*Poa annua* greens without causing turf injury?

For years, a general rule of thumb for putting green rolling frequency has been no more than three times per week. At this frequency, damage to putting surfaces from rolling is unlikely, so this is still a valid and standard recommendation. Recent research (see article links below) revealed that rolling with traditional putting green rollers can be applied on a frequent schedule, or three to seven days per week, on healthy turf. Furthermore, and assuming healthy turf, high intensity rolling, such as more than once daily, can be employed on a temporary basis for up to several weeks in preparation for special events without causing significant turf injury.



In addition to rolling frequency, turf health and performance in response to rolling is based on many variables, with some of the primary factors being roller type, roller weight, soil type, turfgrass species and environmental conditions. Despite its benefits, rolling can be overused and turf damage from mechanical stress can occur. When rolling damage does occur, it is rarely in the middle of greens; rather, it is wherever rollers turn or stop/start, such as in the green surrounds, collars or mower cleanup laps along putting green edges. To help minimize roller damage in these high-traffic areas where damage generally first appears, operators should be well-trained and mechanical wear distributed as widely as possible by varying turning patterns and stop/start points to the extent possible.

Suggested Reading:

[The Ups and Down of Rolling Putting Greens](#)

[More Light on Lightweight Rolling](#)

[Green Speed: Trick or Treat?](#)

Supporting Research:

[Can Annual Bluegrass Putting Greens Be Healthy and Fast?](#)