



On The Road With The USGA—May 2008

By Bob Brame, regional director, Central Region

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The dry 2007 season has become a statistic in the record books. Rainfall over the fall, winter, and spring has placed the lower North Central Region (Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio) in the normal category on the [drought monitor](#). However the impact from last year's dry weather continues to be felt in the form of weak, thin rough that needs some attention to restore good density. For many this means that various key areas of rough need spot or complete seeding, along with aeration and fertilization. Green surrounds are particularly high on the priority list. The process of seeding and cultivating to achieve good seed-to-soil contact can open the door to weed encroachment. Click on the following link to review [an informative article](#) on Purdue's web site prior to implementing a seeding program.

Whether part of a renovation/seeding program or a component of routine golf turf management, efficient and environmentally friendly weed control is dependent upon accurate identification. Take time to review the University of Kentucky's weed identification web site prior to formulating a control program. Remember, a weed is a plant growing out of place. Knowing a plant's correct name does not necessarily make it a weed. As an example, there are no plants out of place (weeds) in a truly natural predominately out-of-play rough. Also keep in mind, perfect will never happen and, as such, something other than grass growth on your course should be kept in proper perspective - a good topic to discuss during an onsite visit.

Black turfgrass ataeinus (BTA) adult beetles have been spotted on greens signaling the merit of finalizing grub control strategies. Along with a careful assessment of past activity, checkout the posting on the [Ohio State University's web site](#).

Mole damage is occurring throughout the region, and although efficient control is not always easy there are proven strategies that should be separated from the bogus. Review the following link to aid in [ridding your course of moles](#).

One of the best resources for developing a disease control program can be found at [here](#) . Several diseases have already been sighted on course visits this season, and more will follow.

Source: Bob Brame

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[Information on the USGA's Course Consulting Service](#)

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