

# Green Section Record

## REGIONAL UPDATE

January 17, 2020



*Areas of the Northeast saw bermudagrass break dormancy following several weeks of unseasonably mild weather.*

## WE ALL LIKE A LITTLE BONUS

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Much of the Northeast, especially the southern portion of the region, is experiencing a relatively mild winter thus far. Mild weather has several benefits, including additional time for work on the course, less opportunity for winter injury, and it allows golfers to play well into the offseason.

Courses in Virginia, southern Maryland and other areas have reported that dormant bermudagrass started to show some green tissue following several weeks of temperatures in the low 70s. Moreover, bentgrass putting greens are still growing, albeit slowly, which could justify infrequent mowing. It is important to note that although putting greens might be cut, or a hint of green color can be seen on dormant turf, it is still winter, and expectations should be tempered.

It is not in the best interest of the superintendent nor plant health to try to force growth or strive to achieve any midseason playability goals. In fact, it could be detrimental to plant health to resume fertility or growth

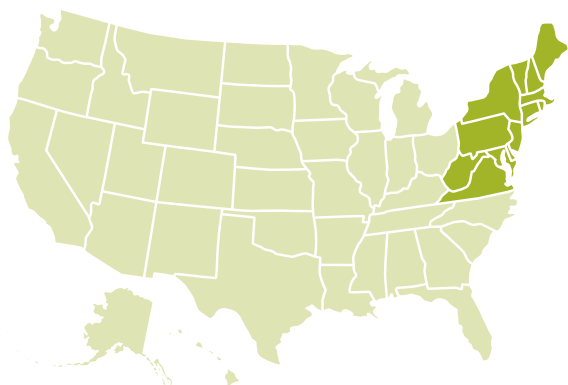
regulator applications. Although grass might be growing or showing signs of greening up, allowing the plants to naturally prepare for winter weather is the best way to promote optimal plant health.

Bonus days on the golf course are great, and something we can all get excited about, but remember they are bonus days. It is a treat to be outside on a golf course getting fresh air and perhaps breaking in those new clubs for 2020. Don't get hung-up on green speed, firmness or any other factor in playability. There will be plenty of time for that in the coming months.



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