



Is Your Range Ready?

By Chris Hartwiger, director, Course Consulting Service

May 17, 2016

Late May to early June mark the beginning of the bermudagrass growing season in the Southeast. Warm temperatures and longer days also mean that most golf facilities are recording their highest volume of play. Now is a good time to assess turfgrass quality on the practice tee. To determine whether the practice tee is ready for summer at your golf facility, answer the following question, Does the quality of the bermudagrass at today's hitting stations match the quality of the bermudagrass on the fairways? If the answer is yes, get out to the range for a small bucket. If the answer is no, the volume of practice on the tee has exceeded the recovery rate of the grass. Here are a few suggestions to get your practice tee back on track:



Monitor divot recovery and rotate hitting stations to achieve the proper balance between using artificial turf and natural grass tees.

1. Make use of artificial surfaces during times of the year when grass is dormant or slow to recover.
2. When the bermudagrass is growing, make sure that the divot recovery rate is faster than the amount of time it takes to rotate hitting stations through the entirety of the tee.
3. Communicate better practice habits to golfers. When golfers create linear divot patterns during practice they help maintain the quality of a grass practice tee.

For more information about managing the turf on your practice tee, check out these resources:

[Practice Like a Pro](#)

[Tailor Made - Calculating Adequate Practice Tee Size](#)

Southeast Region Agronomists:

Steve Kammerer, regional director – skammerer@usga.org

Chris Hartwiger, director, USGA Course Consulting Service- chartwiger@usga.org

Patrick M O'Brien, agronomist – patobrien@usga.org

Todd Lowe, agronomist – tlowe@usga.org

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

[Contact the Green Section Staff](#)