

Green Section Record

REGIONAL UPDATE

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Without regular perimeter edging, these three bermudagrass varieties became severely contaminated only two years after establishment.

COLLARS, CONTAMINATION AND SIMPLICITY

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Typically, putting greens in the Southeast are a variety of either ultradwarf bermudagrass or creeping bentgrass surrounded by bermudagrass rough. Collars, between these two playing surfaces, get exposed to a lot of abuse and is prone to [developing many problems](#). Common collar issues include wear and a gradual increase in elevation caused by frequent sand topdressing. However, preventing putting green contamination is another serious challenge associated with collars. Vigorously growing bermudagrass can quickly encroach into putting greens, requiring diligent management to prevent widespread contamination.

Using a variety of bermudagrass for collars that is different from both the putting greens and rough is gaining popularity. However, this approach has its own issues. The bermudagrass varieties that are typically established in putting green collars are often more aggressive than putting green varieties, so collars – which act as a buffer that prevents contamination – can actually present an additional threat.