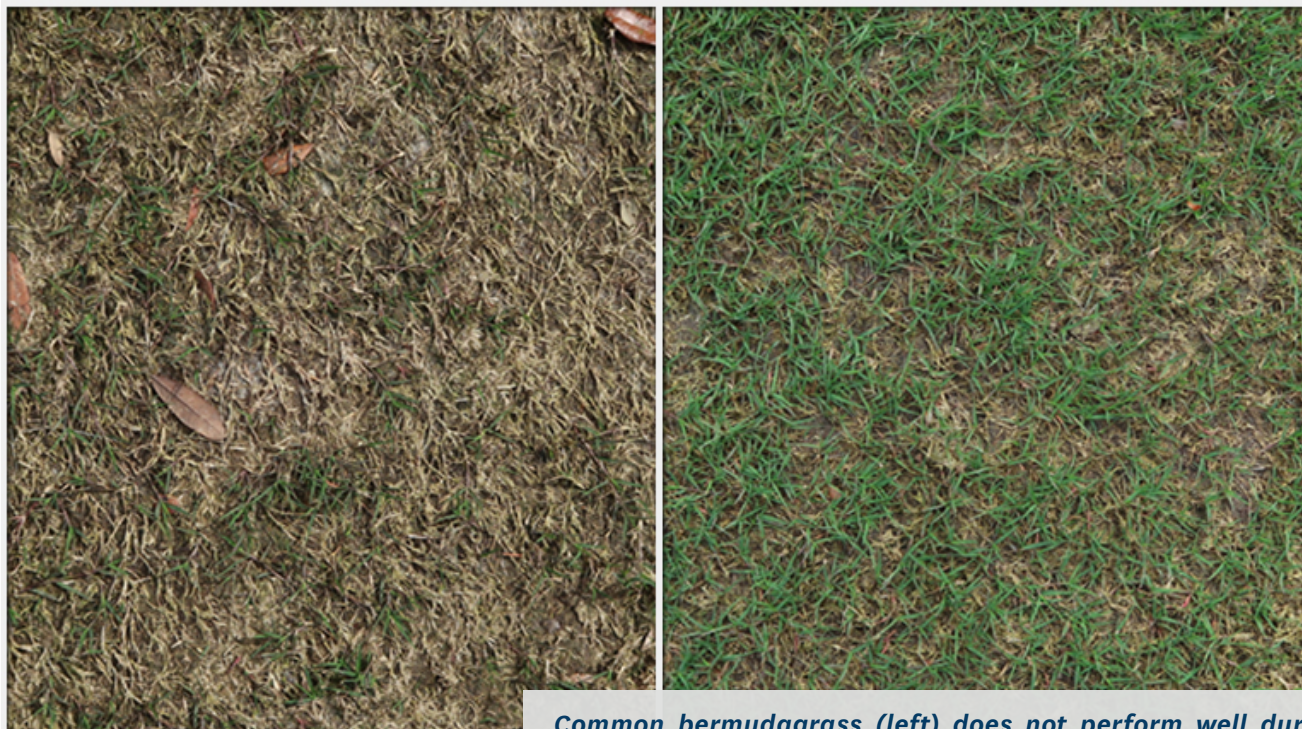


Green Section Record

REGIONAL UPDATE

February 21, 2020



Common bermudagrass (left) does not perform well during winter compared to improved bermudagrass varieties. These images were taken last week from the same fairway.

A COMMON PROBLEM THIS WINTER

BY ADDISON BARDEN | AGRONOMIST, SOUTHEAST REGION

Common bermudagrass on tees, fairways, and rough is considered one of the [most problematic weeds](#) in the Southeast and is seemingly never completely eradicated. Even with the best common bermudagrass control program, infestations still occur. It's not a question of if, but when.

The large leaf blades, long internodes – i.e., spacing between leaves – and thin overall density of common bermudagrass creates a leaf canopy that cannot support a good golf ball lie. Even in the summer, when weather is ideal for bermudagrass growth, common bermudagrass doesn't provide a good playing surface. In the winter, when bermudagrass growth slows but golf cart traffic remains consistent, common bermudagrass quickly loses its leaves to traffic and decomposition. This leaves only stems and bare soil to play shots from. Our once less-than-desirable ball lie has now become downright terrible due to this grass' poor genetics.

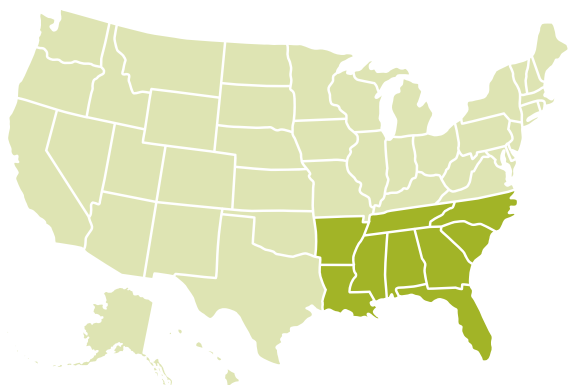


For information on the USGA's Course Consulting Service Contact the Green Section Staff.

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Regrassing with an improved bermudagrass variety that has fine leaf texture and dense canopy growth will improve playability throughout the year. However, fundamental problems that negatively impact turf health such as shade, tree root competition, high traffic and poor drainage must be addressed for any bermudagrass to perform well. Improved bermudagrass varieties are not a remedy for poor growing conditions.

For more help on improving playing conditions, contact your [regional USGA agronomist](#).



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