



*The cup cutter rotation method was used to flip bare spots and healthy turf areas on this nursery green in order to speed recovery after plugs were removed.*

## HOW TO QUICKLY REPAIR SMALL AREAS OF PUTTING GREEN DAMAGE

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- Small areas of putting green damage are a common issue that negatively impacts playability and aesthetics.
- Recovery in these areas can be slow, especially if the damage occurs during a period of high turf stress or limited growth.
- Using a cup cutter to rotate healthy turf into the damaged area is a quick and easy way to “shrink” small areas of damaged turf and accelerate recovery.

Small areas of putting green damage – less than 8 inches in diameter – are common and never welcomed. Unfortunately, natural recovery can take longer than desired and traditional plugging methods are time consuming and labor intensive. Fortunately, a cup cutter can be used to hide damage and speed recovery in most small areas of turf damage. Here’s how it’s done:

1. Place the center of a cup cutter over the edge of the damaged area. The cup cutter cylinder should be covering 50% damaged turf and 50% healthy turf.
2. Push the cup cutter into the soil as if you were cutting a cup – make sure the cup cutter is inserted deeper than the root system – and then rotate the cup cutter 180 degrees.
3. Remove the cup cutter while leaving the core in the soil. You should now see that the damaged area and healthy area have been flipped.
4. Repeat this process as many times as you'd like to make damaged areas smaller and smaller.

By rotating the damaged area with healthy turf, one larger area of damage is converted into several smaller areas that are surrounded by more healthy turf. This speeds recovery of the damaged putting green turf and makes the damaged areas less noticeable. This tip can also be used on nursery greens that have had plugs removed to speed recovery. Keep in mind that this tip should not be performed on ultradwarf bermudagrass putting greens because it will rotate the grain.