

AS EASY AS ABC...

By Dr Andy Owen

SO DO YOU KNOW HOW BIG YOUR GREENS ARE?

If you don't you could be wasting money. Calculations for fertiliser applications, overseeding rates and plant protection might all be based on your green sizes. But are they right?

Courses having recent constructions or renovations should have accurate green area measurements, as the specifications will have been written with this information in mind, however older courses might be relying on green sizes which have been passed down from greenkeeper to greenkeeper like a Chinese whisper. How do you check?

Next time you have a free half hour get out and measure them. You will need: an assistant, a tape measure, a pocket calculator and a notepad.

Step one

Walk around the perimeter of the green and count your steps.
(eg. 90 steps)

Step two

Divide the total number of steps by 36.
(eg. $90/36 = 2.5$ steps)

Step three

Send your assistant into position somewhere roughly in the middle of the green with the tape measure.

Step four

Walk around the green again stopping every 2.5 steps to measure the distance from your assistant to the edge of the green.
(eg. 12.5 m, 12.0 m, 11.5 m....etc).

Step five

You will now have 36 radial measurements from your green. Calculate an average of the 36 measurements.
(eg. $12.5\text{ m} + 12.0\text{ m} + 11.5\text{ m} + \dots / 36 = 12.0\text{ m}$)

Step six

Using the formula πr^2 calculate the area of your green:
 r = the average calculated in step five
 $\pi = 3.142$
 $(3.142 \times (12 \times 12)) = 452\text{ m}^2$

Simple.

So is the area you have calculated the same as the one you have been using for all your calculations for the last few years?

Dr Andy Owen is a lecturer at Myerscough College and Course Tutor for the BSc. Turfgrass Science and on-line Foundation degree.



WHAT'S YOUR NUMBER?



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Name: Paul Johnston
Company: Barenbrug UK
Position: Managing director

How long have you been in the industry?
"12 years."

How did you get into it?

"My father was in the seed industry for 35 years, so there was always a particular interest in the industry and it was a logical move from agricultural chemicals where I started my career."

What other jobs have you done?

"I started working for the general agricultural merchant RHM and from there moved to the American agricultural chemical business ConAgra, working for them in both the US and UK."

What do you like about your current job?

"The ability to introduce new concepts and solutions through our grass breeding programme and because of Barenbrug's diverse production facilities the chance to travel all over the world. I also like the progressive nature of the business."

What changes have you seen during your time in the industry?

"Our customers have become far more professional and informed. They are demanding innovative solutions to their problems and have a

greater thirst for information to help them reach the higher standards demanded by today's players. There is certainly a greater emphasis on the ability of different varieties to help them achieve top quality natural turf surfaces."

What do you like to do in your spare time?

"I play golf, but like a lot of players hate the game when it's not going to plan. I also have a yellow Lotus that I enjoy driving at speed around racetracks."

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

"That's a difficult one! Hopefully running a larger and more successful business in the UK and having a role in the larger European marketplace."

Who do you consider to be your best friends in the industry?

"This is a great industry to work in, there are some really good characters and I've made a lot of friends both here in the UK and other areas of the world. Too many to list here!"

What do you consider to be your lucky number?

"Three."

Pick a number

"39."

Paul has picked Tim Early from Waste2Water