



irrigation. Deep and infrequent irrigation strategies do lead to longer rooting. Currently, most people are using four methods to measure soil moisture.

1. Feel Method- using a cup cutter or probe and looking/feeling for moisture in the soil.
2. Guestimate- This works if the Superintendent is experienced with the site.
3. ET Monitoring – This must be measured daily and irrigation scheduled accordingly.
4. TDR Sensor – measures soil water content. Not all the water is available to plant.
- 5.

Brushing Greens Study: There has been little work done in brushing greens research. The trials were conducted on bent/Poa greens. The proposed benefits include: Increased stolon removal, increased seed head removal and increased green speed. The results actually indicate the brushing picked up more topdressing material which dulled bed knives, with no seed head removal and no increase in green speed. The study revealed that the results did not support the proposed benefits.


Frequency of Clip Study: Results indicate there was no difference in green speeds with any different frequency of clip rates.

Dollar Spot Study: Research reveals that the lowest mowing heights had the least amount of dollar spot and the highest height of cut had the most dollar spot incidence.

Rolling Studies: Rolling studies reveal there has been less dollar spot incidence with frequent rolling programs of at least 3 days per week. Dr. Nikolai believes this is because the bacteria populations increase in the canopy which inhibit the dollar spot pathogen and not as a result of the dew removal as has been previously proposed. There has also been a measurable decrease in moss populations which he believes is probably from the increased wear on the moss from the rolling procedures.

- Reasons why you should roll greens:
- Improved seed bed preparation
- Compacts frost heaving
- Decreased moss populations
- Decreased dry spots
- You can increase your HOC without loss of green speed
- Improves incorporation of topdressing material
- Decreases dollar spot incidence
- MOST IMPORTANT - Improves customer satisfaction

Dr. Nickolai or “Thom” as he asked me to call him was quite the entertaining and informative speaker, definitely not boring. He will have his own talk show including a band, at the GCSAA Conference in Orlando. Be sure to check it out. He will have some interesting guests. He provided a lot of information about a lot of preconceived notions in the field of turfgrass maintenance. Some of the data seemed to be quite obvious. That’s why they do the research and run the numbers, to prove or disprove theories and hypothesis. Numbers never lie. Another good reason to continue to support turfgrass research. @



Points for a Purpose

The Wee One Foundation is asking golf course superintendents nationwide to donate a portion of their Early Order Program points to the Wee One Foundation through participating turf care supply companies. All donated points will be matched as a cash donation from the participating organizations. Donations will help ease the financial burden associated with medical expenses for golf course management professionals and their dependents.

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For a complete list of participating companies, visit weeone.org

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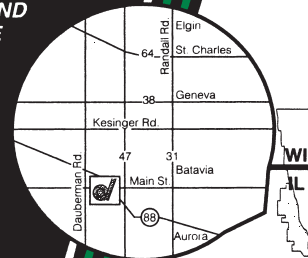
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