

What's a real double cut?

Turf management tip gleaned from the Internet may help attain specific green speed

Editor's Note: As a superintendent who tended to use a cross-cut pattern on a double cut, this was an interesting tidbit I thought might be worth sharing for folks trying to attain specific greens speeds for special events. This discussion came from Turfnet Associates, Inc. which has a monthly newsletter and a web site. I have consistently found interesting information and wide-ranging discussions in the newsletter. I'm just now accessing the web site. In this information age, a subscription to Turfnet may be worth your while. Contact: Peter L. McCormick, Editor, 21 Brandywine Rd, Skillman, NJ, 08558 or call 1-800-314-7929.

Chuck Murray, CGCS, Edgewood Country Club, Charleston, W.Va. asks: "Running the risk of covering real old ground, I can't remember ever hearing

anything about the mowing direction when double-cutting greens or rolling greens after mowing.

"In order to negate the 3- to 6-inch difference in Stimp readings down a light stripe versus a dark stripe, we began reverse rolling down the same stripe the mower traveled, but in the opposite direction. Same with double cutting... down the dark stripe removes more leaf, also, than "cross cutting" and more closely equalizes the roll down the light and dark stripes. Is this the common practice with triplex mowing?"

Jeff Michel, CGCS, Mount Vernon CC, Alexandria, Va. replied: "Wow! You think it's old ground, but I've been at this 14 years and never even thought about reverse mowing on a double cut. We have always used perpendicular directions. You stated that the reverse cut

picks up more clippings — how does the reverse roll affect the roll of the ball? This calls for some experimentation on my part!"

Murray fired back: "Jeff, the idea came to me when we purchased our Tri-Rollers for the greens mower back in 1994 and did a lot of Stimp readings to determine for ourselves what benefit we were experiencing. In that process, we found that the rolling could be as much as 6-inch difference on the light stripe versus the dark stripe. Thus, we began to "reverse roll" down the dark stripe and brought that differential down to 2" - 3".

Following that, we found that "reverse mowing" when double cutting "harvested" more crop and reduced the grain. Our greens are predominately Pennncross."

Credit: Turfnet Monthly, August 1997.

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