

From THE FEED



Across the pond, many superintendents are banning golf shoes that are ruining their courses and putting greens. In the U.S., many turf managers are beginning to do the same, looking to protect the turf that they work so hard to maintain. Check out what industry professionals had to say about Adidas' adizero Tour, the shoe that has caused the most damage.



Alex Nicholls @Golfcornerstone
Brocket Hall Golf Club ban adidas Adizero golf shoes as they allegedly cause 'damage to greens'



Brocket Hall @BrocketHall
So far no arguments against our decision to ban Adidas Adizero Tour golf shoes as they damage turf. What are your thoughts?



Caledonian Golf Tours
@CaledonianGolf
@ClearSwing @BrocketHall I love @adidasGolf shoes and I agree that some have overreacted. Possibly an issue with greens drainage?



Darren Gough @clearswing
@Caledoniangolf @BrocketHall
@adidasGolf — too many courses including Tour venues banned them — so not a drainage problem



Luke Geoghegan @Lukegeoghegan
@ClearSwing @CaledonianGolf nothing to do with drainage, they make deep indentations on compact greens like ours. Hence the ban.



Darren Gough @clearswing
@CaledonianGolf @Lukegeoghegan — it's the accentuated spike mounts which are the problem unfortunately.



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One step forward, two steps back

Earlier this year, GCI began to receive an enormous amount of feedback from superintendents across the country about new golf shoes that were ruining their putting greens. The new spikes, which boast improved traction and performance for players, dig too deeply into the turf that superintendents work so hard to maintain. In order to find out more we reached out to Dr. Thomas A. Nikolai of Michigan State University and Josh Lewis, chief superintendent at Chambers Bay in University Place, Wash. The results are troubling for superintendents, proving that shoe manufacturers need to start rethinking their research and development strategies.

“We better start speaking up as turf managers now, because this is an obvious trend in shoes. We need to be heard.”

—Josh Lewis, Chambers Bay

Treatment	Traffic Ratings Oct. 30, 2013
Nike TW '14	3.4 b
Nike Lunar Control	3.6 b
Adizero Tour	4.3 a
Test 13-144	2.5 c
Ecco Biom	4.2 a
FJ M:Project	2.6 c
FJ DryJoy Tour	2.7 c
Untreated	1.0 d
Probability	0.00