



**Golfdom Survey**

In mid-April, *Golfdom* asked its readers a series of 11 questions relating to greens. The response was tremendous, as 704 readers took the time to fill out our survey. We learned a lot, from how highly regarded the Pro-Core 648 is to how many of you are anxiously awaiting retirement.

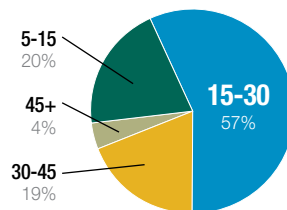
For the complete results of this survey — including over 1,000 responses to questions 10 and 11 — visit the *Golfdom* Daily, [www.golfdom.blogspot.com](http://www.golfdom.blogspot.com).

# IT TAKES GREEN TO KEEP THEM GREEN

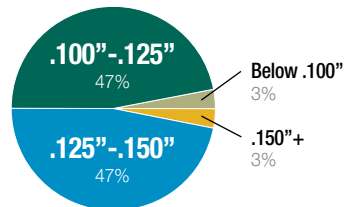
From the preferred height of cut to the biggest obstacle facing greens in the near future, here's what *Golfdom's* readers had to say about maintaining putting greens. **BY GOLFDOM STAFF**



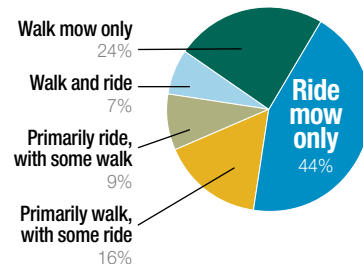
**1 WHAT PERCENTAGE OF YOUR BUDGET WOULD YOU ESTIMATE GOES INTO MAINTAINING GREENS?**



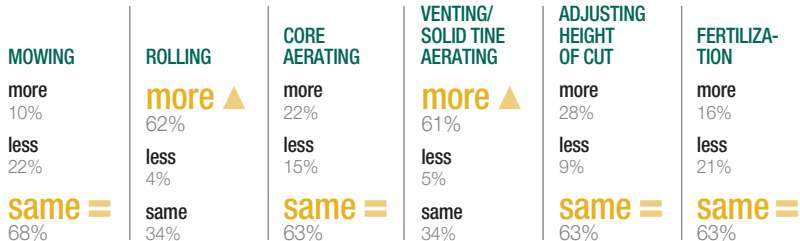
**2 WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE IS THE IDEAL HEIGHT-OF-CUT FOR YOUR GREENS?**



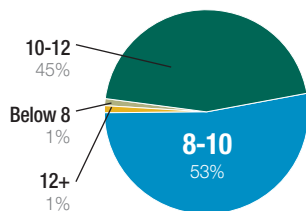
**3 WHEN YOU MOW, YOU:**



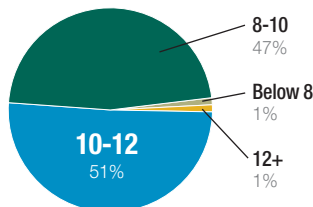
#### 4 HOW DO YOU EXPECT THESE GREENS MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TO CHANGE AT YOUR COURSE IN THE FUTURE?



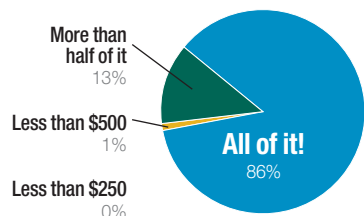
#### 5 WHAT IS THE IDEAL SPEED OF YOUR GREENS?



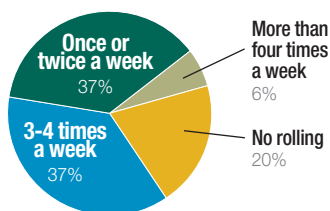
#### 6 IF YOU WERE ABLE TO READ YOUR GOLFERS' MINDS (SCARY THOUGHT, WE KNOW), WHAT SPEED DO YOU THINK THEY'D PREFER?



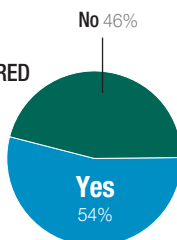
#### 7 BAD NEWS! IT'S THE MIDDLE OF SUMMER, AND YOU'RE DOWN TO YOUR FINAL \$1,000 IN THE MAINTENANCE BUDGET. HOW MUCH OF THAT MONEY DO YOU THROW AT KEEPING YOUR GREENS ALIVE?



#### 8 HOW OFTEN DO YOU ROLL GREENS?



#### 9 DO YOU FEEL THAT ALTERNATIVE FUELS, SPECIFICALLY ELECTRICALLY POWERED EQUIPMENT, WILL BE INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT IN YOUR FUTURE EQUIPMENT SELECTION?



#### 10 WHAT WAS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN GREENS MANAGEMENT DURING THE PAST 5 YEARS?

"The decrease in money because of the economy. Everyone still holds the expectations of when budgets were larger but do not want to pay for it anymore. It takes green to keep them green."

"Hands down it would have to be the alternative mowing/rolling strategy that has allowed greens to hold desired speed without sacrificing quality."

"It's been more than 5 years, but the Toro ProCore has changed the aerification game. Also, more people are using "flushing" on greens to manage water and salts better."

"We have had two of the hottest years back to back that I can remember in 45 years working on a golf course. We have had to resort to much more hand watering than ever before and returned to a more frequent spiking regimen."

#### 11 WHAT WILL BE MOST CHALLENGING ABOUT GREENS MANAGEMENT FIVE YEARS FROM NOW? WHY?

"H<sub>2</sub>O. Water management is coming to a town near you. Soon."

"Currently, there are two significant challenges for us. One is the loss of Namacur and the lack of another product to produce consistent results. Another is the pressure to produce the quality of ball roll five, ten, 15 or more years down the road after setting the bar very high in our first four years with an ultradwarf."

"This place may be a corn field by then."

"Two things: Pesticide management due to increasing restrictions on pesticide use by the EPA; Water availability and quality, due to the increasing demand from growing cities and golf's place on the totem pole in that water hierarchy, which is near the bottom. Golf courses will have to use less water and probably a lower quality water."

"I hope I will be retired!!! I have been a superintendent for 35 years and hope my fellow supers will get back to what we used to do — IPM!! We invented the words 30 years ago. The good old days when the profession was enjoyable and didn't have all these TV expectations."

"Probably fertility management and water use. Our area is starting to push toward voluntary fertilizer restrictions and I can see this becoming more intense and even government intervention."

"Outdated equipment. My facility has not purchased new equipment in 4-5 years due to the economy."

"TV golf tournaments. They don't explain to the average golfer how golf courses are maintained for daily play. They don't have PGA-sanctioned moments before or during commercial times that could educate the public on the need for all of the etiquette that used to be in the game."

"Rolling: To relieve excess stress, I don't have to lower to ridiculous heights for arm-chair agronomists and golfers who think they have a Tour game... the only game they play well is video game golf, even there they have the yips."

"My Procore is the best piece of equipment ever! It is clean, it is fast, and it hasn't caused any damage since I got it back in 2005. The healing time has been almost cut in half."

"Unquestionably, the introduction of handheld soil moisture meters have given superintendents the opportunity to make much more intelligent decisions in the area of moisture management."