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JULY/AUGUST 2025

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Paradise found

How Paradise Valley CC
Superintendent
Rob Collins worked
his way into the Arizona
Golf Hall of Fame

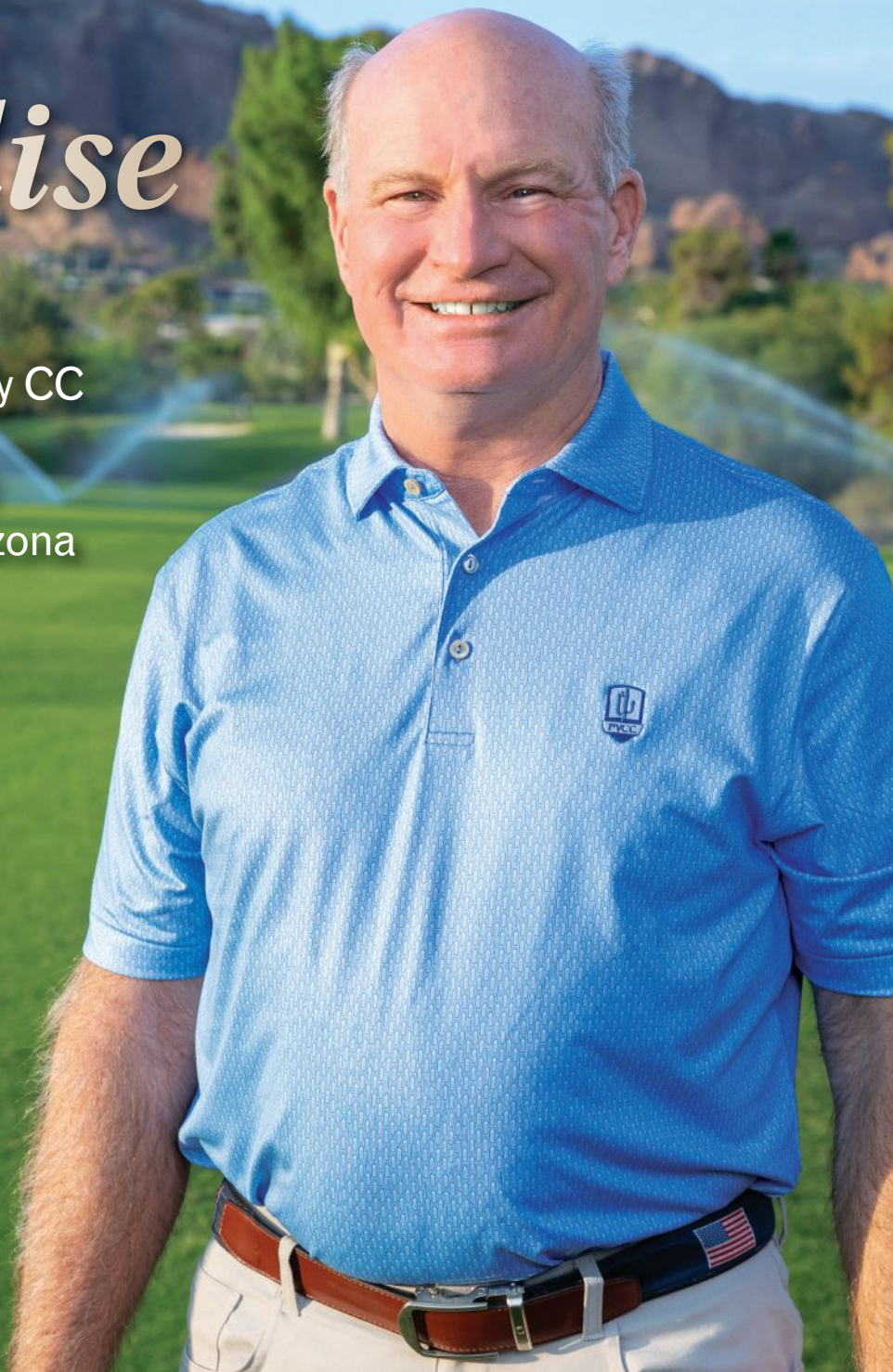


PLUS

PEST OF THE MONTH: ABW

PAUL KOCH, PH.D., ON
SNOW MOLD AND MORE

U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN AND
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Paradise found

How Rob Collins, Paradise Valley CC director of greens and grounds, worked his way into the Arizona Golf Hall of Fame



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"I'm not only intrigued by these two projects, but I'm also relating to them. I feel like we're Saddlebrook and turning our two 18s into three nines. We're like Detroit GC, and we're ready to start digging."

SETH JONES, Editor-in-Chief & Associate Publisher

When less is more

Two press releases caught my eye recently, and we included both in this month's Starter section: the announcement that Rees Jones, a longtime friend of *Golfdom*, is reinventing Saddlebrook Resort in Tampa and shifting the two 18-hole Arnold Palmer designs into three nine-hole tracks that can be mixed and matched. The other: The crew at Detroit Golf Club, all smiles with shovels in hand, about to dig into a green and formally begin a renovation led by Tyler Rae.

The first one is interesting to me because Saddlebrook is saying they're OK not having two 18-hole championship courses at the resort. And not just two championship courses — two Arnold Palmer championship courses — in favor of a more convenient routing with an improved practice area closer to the clubhouse.

They're saying less is more.

The crew at Detroit GC had just finished hosting the PGA Tour's Rocket Classic when they handed all their VIPs a shovel. I can't help but think about how hard the crew worked all year on that green to keep it dialed in for their PGA Tour event. You sweat blood to make sure it's all per-

fect, then the tournament is over. The green that you were whispering sweet nothings to yesterday, you're digging up today.

They're saying you can't always maintain the status quo.

Here at *Golfdom*, I'm not only intrigued by these two projects, but I'm also relating to them. I feel like we're Saddlebrook and turning our two 18s into three nines. We're like Detroit GC, and we're ready to start digging.

The reason for this is because we are still reinventing *Golfdom*. Last month, I pondered in this space — is this a monthly magazine and a website? Or is it a community?

I'm still leaning toward the community. You might

notice that this issue's cover says that it's the July/August issue. We combined these two months into one for a few reasons. First, our readers tell us they don't have time to read a print magazine in the peak of golf season. And second, our advertising partners have told us they're less interested in marketing their products in a print magazine during those busy summer months.

More changes are still to come. I foresee us combining months more often, when the situation calls for it. We want to work smarter, not harder. It seems our readers and advertising partners are less worried that we publish a magazine every month and more interested in seeing a

steady flow from us in person, online and on social media.

We first learned of this desire a few years ago. We combined the November and December issues into one double issue and then added an extra issue in the spring, the Tour Guide special. That was such a hit for us, our readers and our marketing partners that we want to take it to the next level.

I looked back in the archives to see how much of a break in tradition this would be for *Golfdom*. This is Herb Graffis' baby, after all. It turns out, in many of those early years in the 1920s and 1930s, the Graffis Brothers only published 10 issues a year.

Think about how much media has changed since then! And we're going to keep changing and adapting, giving readers what they want, when they want it.

And the great news is your favorite industry trade publication (yes, I'm referring to *Golfdom*) is having its best year ever. And we want it to be even more successful. We're going to chase more stories and see you at more tournaments. That's why you'll see so many photos in these issues of our team attending tournaments and meeting with the crew. And that's why I'm writing this column as I sit on an airplane headed for San Juan, Puerto Rico; to chase a story.

Sometimes less is more. Sometimes, it's time to change the status quo. **G**

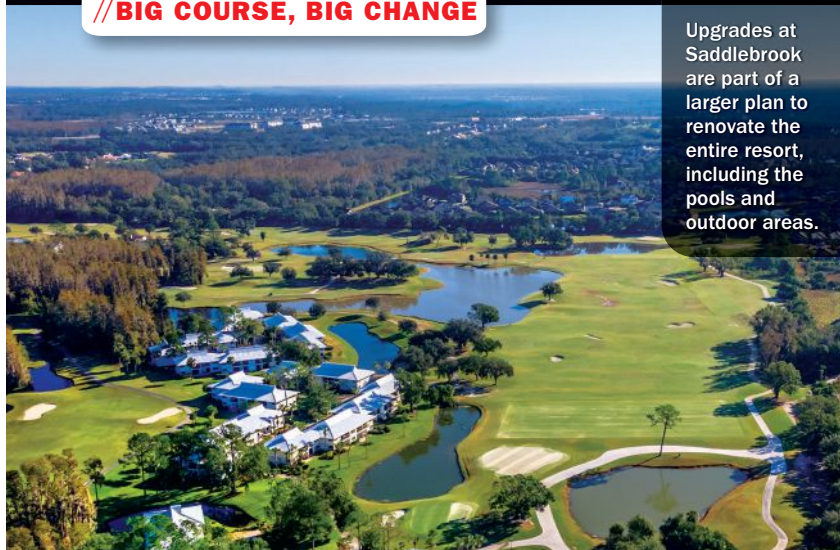
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Starter

NEWS, NOTES AND QUOTES



// BIG COURSE, BIG CHANGE



Upgrades at Saddlebrook are part of a larger plan to renovate the entire resort, including the pools and outdoor areas.

REES JONES TO REINVENT TAMPA'S SADDLEBROOK

TWO 18-HOLE PALMER DESIGNS WILL BECOME THREE NINES

➔ A \$92 million revitalization is currently underway at Saddlebrook Resort, the iconic 480-acre destination near Tampa, Fla.

Rees Jones is spearheading a re-design of Saddlebrook's golf courses. The vision: transform the two existing 18-hole Arnold Palmer layouts into a versatile 27-hole championship experience. The three newly conceived nine-hole courses can be rotated in various combinations to create three distinct 18-hole challenges, each offering a unique playing experience. The renovation began last year, incorporating six holes from the former Palmer Course and relocating the driving range closer to the main resort lobby for improved accessibility. The state-of-the-art prac-

tice facilities now span 13 acres and include a double-sided driving range extending more than 360 yards, two TifEagle bermudagrass putting greens and three short-game areas with precision-designed greenside bunkers.

The three configurations will rotate daily, with course distances ranging from 6,600 to 7,005 yards and playing to pars of 71 or 72. One course is slated to debut later this year, with another to follow early next year. The third is currently open for limited play and will undergo full renovation in spring/summer of 2026.

The golf transformation is part of a broader masterplan reimagining the entire resort. Led by architecture and design firm EoA Group, renova-

Continued on page 5

// GOLFDOM ASKS

HOW WAS THE SUMMER OF 2025?

In mid-July, *Golfdom* asked readers via our social media channels, "Fill in the blank: For superintendents, the summer of 2025 has been _____."

Many of the responses included gifs that wouldn't be fit to print (one was Clint Eastwood angry at the rain, another was a scene from Jurassic Park... we'll just leave it at that), but some of the others?

"Exhausting," — Bobby Jaeger, Lake Tahoe Golf Course, South Lake Tahoe, Calif.

"Schizophrenic," — Ryan Moore, Hidden Creek Golf Club, Egg Harbor Township, N.J.

"Very challenging! But, everyday we try and improve, even just 1 percent better. Appreciate the views, accept the defeats and provide the best the team can, day in and day out!" — Wayne Lagasse, CGCS, Stonington (Conn.) Country Club.

"Best summer ever, despite some challenges along the way," — Adam Garr.

// WATSON THE WILDCAT

SYNGENTA ADDS ILLINOIS MANAGER

Former superintendent Craig Watson has joined Syngenta as a territory manager in Illinois, where he will support customers in the turf and aquatics markets.

Watson graduated from Kansas State University with a Bachelor of Science in golf course management. He has a wealth of experience in the lawn and golf industries, starting his career as a spray technician at Howe Landscape. Then, from 2012 to 2015, he was the assistant golf course superintendent at Rich Harvest Farms in Sugar Grove, Ill. He then accepted a position with Morris Country Club, where he served as superintendent for seven years. Watson transitioned to a role as a technical sales representative at SePRO.

"Craig's wide range of experience and knowledge in the industry makes him an invaluable resource for customers seeking actionable turf management solutions," says Troy Rippy, Midwest district manager for turf at Syngenta.



Craig Watson

//TIME TO GET TO WORK

Ground breaking at Detroit GC



Immediately upon the conclusion of the 2025 Rocket Classic, the team was ready to break out the shovels at Detroit GC for a multimillion-dollar restoration of the North Course. A few friends of *Golfdom* made the photo op, including Tyler Rae, architect (fourth from left), and together on the far right, Sam Moynihan, director of agronomy, and Joe Miller and Tim Maynard, both of NMP Golf Construction. The restoration will be complete before the 2026 Rocket Classic.

//GCSAA NEWS

FORMER SUPER NEW GCSAA FIELD STAFFER



Ron Prescott

Ron Prescott has been named the field staff representative for the Southeast region of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). Prescott will be the GCSAA liaison for GCSAA-affiliated chapters in Alabama, the Florida panhandle, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee.

Prescott joins the GCSAA staff from

A.C. Read Golf Course at Naval Air Station Pensacola in Florida, where he served as superintendent since 2012. Prior to A.C. Read, he was superintendent at Glenlakes Golf Club in Foley, Ala., and Shalimar Pointe Golf & Country Club in Shalimar, Fla.

"I'm incredibly honored to join GCSAA as the Southeast field staff representative," Prescott says. "After more than 30 years as a proud member, this opportunity allows me to give back to the association and industry. I look forward to connecting with members and chapters throughout the region and supporting the future of our profession."

//NO QUIT IN KWIATKOWSKI

FORMER EVANS SCHOLAR NEW ENVU T&O LEAD

Jeff Kwiatkowski joined Envu to lead the U.S. Turf and Ornamentals business and strategically support the North America leadership team. He brings over 20 years of strategic focus on sales and commercial operations leadership in the green industry.



Jeff Kwiatkowski

Prior to joining Envu, he served the last few years as president at a small privately held company where he led all company operations with a strategic focus on improving the customer experience. Kwiatkowski also spent 23 years at ScottsMiracle-Gro where he led multiple business units in the Americas and Europe.

As a proud Evans Scholar alumnus from Ohio State University, Kwiatkowski dedicates much of his philanthropic efforts to supporting youth caddie programs and helping underserved students pursue a path to college.

"Helping companies in the green industry grow their business is a passion of mine," Kwiatkowski says. "The opportunity to do so at Envu, a leader in environmental science, is exciting because it's a legacy company that's doing incredible things."

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Continued from page 4

tions span the full guest experience —updated arrival and lobby areas to redesigned guestrooms, new dining concepts and upgraded event spaces. Outdoor areas, multiple pools and Saddlebrook's more than 40,000 square feet of meeting space are all being modernized to meet today's standards of luxury and functionality, according to the resort.

Golfdom Gallery

WOMEN'S
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1 Round two Nate Schell, superintendent at Lancaster (Pa.) Country Club, enjoyed hosting the 2024 U.S. Women's Open so much that he came back to help the crew at Erin Hills this year.



2 Meeting of the minds With less than 24 hours to go until the start of the 2025 U.S. Women's Open, we saw these members of the Erin Hills team all commiserating one more time (from left to right): Zach Reineking, co-general manager; John Jacques, superintendent; Al the mechanic; Adam Wagner; Derek Weil, hospitality manager; Bryan Fenney, senior assistant superintendent; and Ty Arvold, head chef.



3 Catching up with QP *Golfdom* Editor-in-Chief Seth Jones (middle) spotted some familiar faces in the volunteer tent at Erin Hills: Quali-Pro's Chris Butcher (left) and Bob Kane.

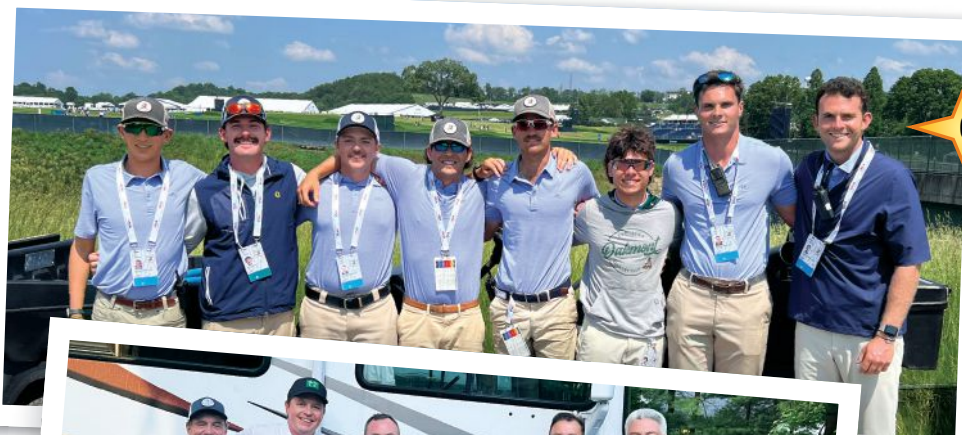
4 Rake 'em! We spotted volunteers Walker Petersen (left) and Noah Aden doing last-minute touch-ups around Erin Hills before the U.S. Women's Open tee off.



5 Coughlin meets Col. Hurdzan Just another day at the U.S. Women's Open, where *Golfdom* digital editor Will Coughlin (right) met Mike Hurdzan, Ph.D., ASGCA, winner of the Old Tom Morris Award, the Donald Ross Award and the Don A. Rossi Award.



PHOTO BY: GOLFDOM STAFF



6 Brothers in arms
Thanks to these members of the Oakmont crew for momentarily setting aside the fatigue of U.S. Open week and putting on smiles for their favorite turf industry publication. We heard one of them say, "Guys, we're gonna be in *Golfdom*!" Yes, you are!



7 It's a U.S. Open house party!
We were thrilled to be invited to the 25th anniversary party of Heritage Links at a home right outside the Oakmont gates. (From left to right are Jon O'Donnell, president, Heritage Links; John Daniels, project manager, Heritage Links; Chris Huggett, COO, Mackenzie & Ebert; Martin Ebert, director, Mackenzie & Ebert and Jones.



8 These guys know great architecture It was a power golf trio we ran into at the concessions stand near Oakmont's eighth hole: Jim Nagle, founder and lead designer, Nagle Design Works; Darryl Bartlett, senior project manager, NMP Golf; and Adam Lemons, vice president, Better Billy Bunker.



9 Say hello to Hanse It's always a pleasure to talk to the current course architect about the changes to a venue in advance of a major championship. Jones was able to chat with Gil Hanse, ASGCA, Hanse Golf Course Design, a day before the U.S. Open was to start. The full interview is on Golfdom.com.



10 Man of the hour Honest question: After all the hours Mike McCormick put in at Oakmont prepping for the 2025 U.S. Open after the last week... month... six months... how did he still look fresher than Seth?

11 A picture with the prez The *Golfdom* crew asked USGA president Fred Perpal (in sport coat) for a photo. He not only obliged but also said thank you to the team for supporting golf course superintendents. With Perpal are Coughlin, Bill Roddy, Craig MacGregor and Jones.



Paradise found

How Rob Collins, Paradise Valley CC director of greens and grounds, worked his way into the Arizona Golf Hall of Fame

★★★ BY SETH JONES ★★★

Twenty years ago, Rob Collins was in fear of losing his job.

Paradise Valley Country Club in Paradise Valley, Ariz., is one of those premier private clubs that seeks no publicity ... especially bad publicity. In 2006, Paradise Valley CC members and employees saw the name of their course in the news. The reason? The course, along with others, was cited by the Arizona Department of Water Resources for exceeding its allocated water amount.

"They handed out a fine and put our name in the paper," Collins recalls. "It's hard to not take that personally. This is what you do. You spend hours every day working toward a goal. And then you're handed a citation, your name is in the paper and everybody's upset."

The immediate reaction was to turn the water off on 10 of the course's 122 acres. Turf died. Huge trees died.

"You'd drive the course, and it was like there were scabs on the course," Collins says. "You can't ignore it or pretend it didn't happen. In the moment, it was a constant reminder that something was wrong. We screwed up, and we've got to fix it."

For his entire professional career — which started in 1983 with the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Nimitz — Collins has been fixing things. After an honorable discharge from the Navy, he discovered golf course maintenance and "it set the hook." Time at Ohio State University, an internship at Muirfield Village,

stops in Scottsdale and then St. Louis, followed by a return to Arizona and Paradise Valley CC in 1995 ...

Forty years later, he was inducted into the Arizona Golf Hall of Fame.

"Mark (Woodward) called me to tell me, and he happened to be with Shawn Emerson at the time; they're both good friends of mine," Collins says. "They were driving in Texas and told me. It's a great honor. It's nice to be recognized. It's not until after you experience it and you look back and you realize ... this is cool."

★★★

Everyone loves Rob

For many reasons — among them that recent induction into the Arizona Golf Hall of Fame — Collins is *Golfdom's* 2025 Herb Graffis Businessperson of the Year. Along with his business acumen, Collins is often referred to as an outstanding superintendent and a kind man.

"They were driving in Texas and told me. It's a great honor. It's nice to be recognized. It's not until after you experience it and you look back and you realize ... this is cool."

— ROB COLLINS

"Rob Collins is a fantastic superintendent," says longtime Desert Mountain director of agronomy Shawn Emerson, now with GSI Executive Search, who nominated Collins for the Award. "He's just kept developing procedures in the business world of a golf course superintendent, in the sense that he's taken care of his golf course and focused on playability at the same time. Over time, he's become a leader in Arizona, working with city officials on water."

Continued on page 10



The Herb Graffis Businessperson of the Year Award, given annually since 2012, is named in honor of *Golfdom*'s founder, World Golf Hall of Fame member Herb Graffis. Graffis was one of the first people to think of golf as a business when he and his brother Joe founded *Golfdom* in 1927. With his vision, Graffis helped advance the game in numerous ways, from founding the National Golf Foundation and the Club Management Association of America to his work advocating on behalf of superintendents and elevating their profile. It is with all due respect that we present this award in Mr. Graffis' honor.



// GRAFFIS AWARD

Continued from page 8

Interestingly, it was Collins who replaced Emerson's father as superintendent at Paradise Valley CC. It was Emerson's "dream job," but also a place he never got to work because bylaws forbid Emerson's father from hiring his son.

"Rob treated my dad with so much respect," Emerson recalls. "No one could replace my legend (father) better than Rob, because he's so respectful and kind."

Collins was also nominated by Woodward, a former president of GCSAA as well as the CEO of the association in the mid-2000s and the host superintendent of the 2008 U.S. Open at Torrey Pines. Woodward calls Collins "one of the best superintendents in the state of Arizona."

"One of the reasons I nominated him is because he's so active with our local



Assistant Superintendents Oliver Clanin and Madison Rudsinski listen as Collins shares some wisdom. "Rob has some pretty unconventional tactics," Clanin says.

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association and the Arizona Water Association,” Woodward says. “And also, the way he approaches his own course — he does a lot of research there. He knows all the latest and greatest in turf.”

Woodward adds that Collins has, for a long time, served his fellow superintendents in Arizona as a spokesperson on behalf of the industry.

“The best thing about Rob is he’s very calm, he never gets rattled when he’s doing presentations,” Woodward says. “He’s very thoughtful. When he talks, people listen. He’s done a lot of really cool interviews with our local media. There couldn’t be a better proponent for our industry — everyone loves Rob.”



Will it sink, or will it float?

Collins looks back at that citation in 2006 as one of his most memorable days as a superintendent. It set in motion a major irrigation renovation and turf reduction at Paradise Valley CC, and work continues to this day to study the course and how it can best maintain its status as a premier facility while also being a good steward of the environment.

“We are tethered to our weather station and make a lot of decisions based on weather. We’ve migrated to moisture meters. I know that’s commonplace, but we’re working with it to a degree that we’re one of the courses working with Toro on a new software they’re developing with turfRad,” Collins says. “Our goal is to get down to 90 acres of turf or less yet maintain our feel of a parkland course in a desert environment, which is unique.”

Collins has an assistant superintendent, Oliver Clanin, whose sole responsibility is moisture management and daily adjustments.

“Rob has some pretty unconventional tactics that we like to use,” Clanin says. “I drive turfRad pretty much every day and then make adjustments. You can’t get (irrigation) perfect — there are lots of adjustments, nozzle adjustments and sometimes things break.”

“The water topic is profound for us,” Collins says. “It’s about evaluating how the course dries down differently and being able to put water where it’s needed. I think (superintendents) have thrown out the DU (distribution uniformity) model, and they’ve oriented themselves with what people are calling the MU model — moisture uniformity. Having a system to measure and evaluate the change in moisture is where we’re headed.”

In the induction ceremony for the Arizona Golf Hall of Fame, Brian Whitlark, USGA agronomist for the West region, called Collins “the Benjamin Franklin of water conservation forefront in Arizona.”

Collins considers his course a laboratory and is thrilled when a company connects with him to test their new technology. A recent example: A company that has taken bomb detection technology used by New York City police and adapted it to agriculture as a way

Continued on page 12



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// GRAFFIS AWARD

Continued from page 11

to detect neutrons and then volumetric water content.

"They have this gizmo — it's the size of my desk — and they came out and said, 'Rob, we hear you're doing a lot with moisture testing.' It's measuring cosmic rays as they hit the Earth based on soil moisture," Collins says. "We put it between our second and eighth holes, and the third and seventh, and we waited to see if this would sink, or would it float? And it worked. It was within .1 of what we measured it at. So, they asked me if they could install them in our driving range. It's measuring the change in soil moisture, which is unique."



Opening doors

Madison Rudsinski studied horticulture science and floral design at Kishwaukee College in Malta, Ill. During COVID, she took an internship at a golf course and fell in love with the industry.

She decided to try golf maintenance in the desert southwest and sent out résumés to courses on her wish list. Collins was the only one to respond.

"He saw that I had a background in horticulture science and asked if I'd like to come on as an assistant-in-training," Rudsinski



A snapshot of the "fraternity" of interns Collins worked with at Muirfield Village.

says. "Not many people would give somebody that's still training and going to school the opportunity to move up in the club, especially in a club like this."

Since joining the staff at Paradise Valley, Rudsinski has volunteered on the crew for the 2021 U.S. Women's Open at The Olympic Club in San Francisco; the 2023 U.S. Women's Open at Pebble

Continued on page 14

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// GRAFFIS AWARD

Continued from page 12

Beach; the 2022 U.S. Open at The Country Club in Brookline, Mass.; and was accepted into Nufarm's Excel Leadership program.

"(Collins) has been a great mentor. He's opened a lot of doors for me and helped me become who I am," she says.

Collins' willingness to try "unconventional tactics," as Clanin describes them, is one of the things Rudsinski appreciates most about her job as lead assistant superintendent at Paradise Valley CC.

"Here, it's like its own little research facility," she says. "We work a lot with Pogo. We work a lot with turfRad. We have the turf reduction project. We're looking at zoysia and tracking how it conserves water differently than bermudagrass varieties. It keeps you on your toes, all of our projects."



Fortunate at Paradise

In May, Collins celebrated his 30th year as director of greens and grounds at Paradise Valley CC. He recently found a photo of the crew he worked with back at Muirfield in 1988 and marveled at how many of those people he still knows and the great things they've accomplished in golf.

"Working at Muirfield, it was such a fraternity," he says.

"Just deep friendships. Without dropping names, there's a core group and ... those friendships ... I look at where all those people are, 30 years later, we're all in these great positions."

Collins is still married to his high school sweetheart — Misty asked him to the Sadie Hawkins dance when they were in the ninth grade. The couple has hiked the Grand Canyon rim to rim six times and also likes to build homes. Someday, maybe, he'll retire to one of those homes.

But he isn't thinking about retirement yet.

"You turn 60, and people start asking you about retirement. I don't know what (retirement) looks like," he says. "The young folks I see, I guess maybe I can see myself in them. I don't think I'm reliving my youth through them, but I see their ambition, and it's contagious. They want to learn more, and we're in a good position to help. I'm fortunate that, here at Paradise Valley, we're comfortable with trying new technology, with trying things out.

"We've had good success in finding really good employees, including our two assistants who want to seek a path in turf. (Rudsinski) got to volunteer at The Olympic Club, and then she went to Brookline. She's killing it, the hook is set," Collins continues. "That's what's exciting for me. Who doesn't want to be a part of that?" 



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Walking the Line

Balancing tradition and innovation in golf course management

BY TIFFANY KOSS

Golf has always been a game steeped in tradition. From classic course architecture to time-honored maintenance practices, the sport is defined by its reverence for history. For golf course superintendents, upholding that legacy is part of the job. Yet in today's environment, the push to modernize has never been stronger. Rising costs, shrinking labor pools, sustainability demands and ever-higher player expectations are making innovation a necessity rather than an option.

The question many superintendents face is: How do you embrace new technology and practices without alienating stakeholders who value the way things have always been? Striking that balance requires technical skill, but also diplomacy, communication and vision.



Tiffany Koss

There's no shortage of reasons to innovate. Labor shortages are making it harder to find and retain staff, prompting many operations to invest in autonomous mowers, GPS-guided sprayers and other labor-saving equipment. Sustainability regulations and water restrictions are pushing the adoption of more efficient irrigation systems and drought-tolerant turf varieties. Costs for inputs continue to climb, requiring more precise applications and careful tracking. And players want consistently perfect playing surfaces and attractive, functional pathways throughout the course.

At the same time, not everyone welcomes change. Members, boards and ownership groups can be skeptical of new materials and methods. Some fear the loss of course character or worry that innovation will erode the traditional

aesthetic that makes a facility unique.

That's why it's so important for superintendents to approach innovation as a process of building understanding and trust rather than making unilateral decisions. Here are a few strategies to help bridge the gap between progress and tradition.

Educate with data and demonstrations

Numbers and visuals go a long way in showing value. For example, if you're considering alternative materials — such as Kafka's Wax-Coated Aggregate — side-by-side comparisons can illustrate how these upgrades reduce washouts, conserve resources and maintain a classic look. Share metrics that matter to stakeholders: fewer repairs after storms, improved accessibility and consistent aesthetics season after season.

Communicate early and often

Surprises rarely go over well. Bring your stakeholders into the conversation before you make significant changes. Whether you're evaluating new equipment or recommending aesthetic changes to the course, explain how each improvement aligns with the course's long-term goals. Clear, proactive communication shows respect for

members' perspectives and reinforces that you're making thoughtful decisions.

Introduce innovation gradually

Big changes feel less threatening when rolled out in phases. Start with pilot areas to demonstrate the benefits of modern solutions. Many vendors will offer free trials or demonstrations. This phased approach allows time for questions and feedback before a full rollout.

New tools and materials don't erase tradition — they strengthen your ability to protect it. For example, using Kafka's Wax-Coated Aggregate preserves a classic look while improving durability and reducing ongoing maintenance.

Honor the course's heritage

Even as you modernize operations, find ways to celebrate the history that makes your course special. Share photos or anecdotes about past maintenance practices alongside updates on new materials or techniques. Showing respect for tradition reinforces that innovation is about stewardship, not disruption.

As a superintendent, you are both a guardian of history and an architect of the future. Balancing these roles isn't always easy, but it's what makes this profession so rewarding. By thoughtfully combining proven practices with forward-thinking solutions, you can ensure your course thrives in an era of rapid change without sacrificing the spirit that defines the game.

Embrace innovation with intention, communicate transparently and never lose sight of the traditions that make your course special. In doing so, you'll not only meet today's challenges but leave a legacy of progress and respect.

Tiffany Koss is president of Kafka Granite.



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Any recommendations for your area? We have all the amusement parks here. Believe it or not, 4 1/2 years I've been here, and I haven't been to

any of them. We have a lot of water, especially south of here — lots of fishing and boating.

What teams do you root for? The New England teams. I obviously follow the Jacksonville Jags; I lived there when they came off the ground, so I've watched the mess up there. And Florida State — I'm a huge Seminole fan. Football, baseball, softball, soccer. Lady Seminole soccer is amazing.

Who has the best nickname on your crew? Francisco Lopez. He wears contacts now, but he used to wear these black, plastic-frame glasses, and he got the nickname Buddy Holly. It's stuck with him; we still call him Buddy.



What movie stops you in your tracks when you're channel surfing?

300. Gladiator. The Patriot. Braveheart. My wife and I like to catch a movie; we just saw *The Accountant 2*, that was probably twice as good as the first one.

Give me a bold prediction for how the industry will look different in 10 years.

You've heard of LOFT, right? ... Lack of f'ing talent? A lot of guys getting into the business, they're having an easy way up. They're getting assistant jobs much easier. That concerns me. It's getting harder and harder to find people who can replace a superintendent. I think another thing is automation. It's slowly coming. The automated mowers that are doing ball fields are coming to the golf course side. I think that's going to get popular over the next 10, 15 years. And GPS sprayers — when guys realize how much money they can save, they'll certainly take over as well.

Fill in the blank: The summer of 2025 has been ____. Very positive. We're ahead of schedule. I feel like our grass quality right now is better than it was in October last year for the season.

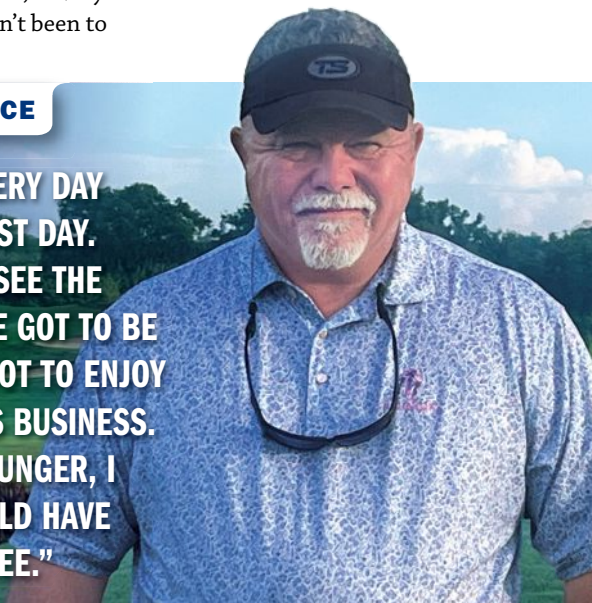
As interviewed by Seth Jones, June 25, 2025.

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MANAGING SHADED WARM-SEASON GRASS GREENS

By Mike Kenna, Ph.D.

Warm-season turfgrasses remain popular for putting greens in tropical, subtropical and transition zone climates, yet they suffer from poor shade and cold tolerance. Recently developed fine-textured zoysiagrass cultivars, such as Lazer, offer promising alternatives due to their greater shade tolerance.

A two-year field trial compared Lazer to TifEagle bermudagrass under different shade levels (0, 20, 40, 60 and 80 percent) and management regimes to assess minimum daily light integral (DLI) requirements and putting surface quality.

Species plots were further divided to include a low (0.100 inches) and high (0.125 inches) height of cut (HOC). The HOC treatments were further split to compare an untreated control to weekly applications of a plant growth regulator (PGR) (Primo Maxx; Syngenta Crop Protection).

In early 2020, Lazer had lower turf quality than TifEagle due to slower post-planting establishment, though it reached full coverage by late 2019. In both years, turf quality was affected by species, shade, PGRs and HOC.



Lazer (left) and TifEagle (right) under 40-percent shade, mowed at 0.100 inches and without PGR. Note the thinning and reduced quality of TifEagle compared to Lazer. (University of Arkansas, 8/31/2020)

In moderate shade (40–60 percent), Lazer generally performed better than TifEagle, particularly at higher HOC (0.125 inches). Under deep shade (60–80 percent), TifEagle declined rapidly, while Lazer maintained moderate quality.

Lazer exhibited unexpected sensitivity to the PGR trinexapac-ethyl, with early applications resulting in phytotoxicity and reduced quality. TifEagle benefited from TE, especially under moderate shade, suggesting lacking data on zoysiagrass PGR responses, warranting further research.

DLI measurements also showed Lazer required significantly less light than TifEagle depending on PGR use.

For ball roll distance, TifEagle outperformed Lazer on most dates, although both reached similar levels by the end of the season. Overall, Lazer zoysiagrass shows potential as a putting green surface in shaded, transition zone environments.

Reference

Adapted from the following journal article: Walton, T. E., McCalla, J. H., Karcher, D. E., Hutchens, W. J., Chandra, A., & Richardson, M. D. (2025). Shade, height of cut, and plant growth regulator effects on bermudagrass and zoysiagrass putting greens. *Crop Science*, 65, e21394. <https://doi.org/10.1002/csc2.21394>

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“THE PAST FEW WINTERS IN THE MIDWEST HAVE CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED THAT WHAT CAN KILL YOUR GRASS FROM WINTER TO WINTER CAN BE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.”

Paul Koch, Ph.D.

(See story on page 22)



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//WAYS TO PREVENT WINTER INJURY

A million ways for grass to die in the winter

By Paul Koch, Ph.D.

By my count, this is the 13th consecutive year I have written a snow mold article for *Golfdom*, and in each of the previous 12 years, I have focused solely on snow mold. However, the past few winters in the Midwest have clearly demonstrated that what can kill your grass from winter to winter can be completely different. In one winter, it might be early winter rainfalls and heavy late-winter snowfall that leads to destructive snow mold outbreaks. Next winter, an absence of snow could lead to widespread desiccation injury. In yet another, it could be snow melt events that then freeze and lead to widespread crown hydration or ice injury.

But no matter the conditions, something can kill or injure your grass. Let's review the various types of winter injury that can occur and the best methods for preventing each one.

SNOW MOLD

Snow mold is one of the most common forms of winter injury but fortunately also one of the most straightforward to prevent. Snow mold is a generic term that encompasses any fungal infection of turfgrass over the winter months and is most commonly one of the three primary snow molds; pink snow mold (*Microdochium nivale*), gray snow mold (*Typhula incarnata*) or speckled snow mold (*Typhula ishikariensis*).

Preventing snow mold is typically done by making one or two fungicide applications in late fall. However, winter rainfall or snowmelt events can rapidly degrade those fungicides and leave the turf susceptible to snow mold development later in the winter. These exact conditions led to widespread snow mold breakthrough during the winter of 2022-2023 across large swaths of the country. To combat this, it's important to apply a highly effective fungicide mixture in late fall that maximizes injury to the fungal population and also make that application as late in the fall as possible to avoid late fall rainfall events. Cultural suppression of snow mold is typically done by avoiding late fall applications of nitrogen fertilizer, but this only results in modest decreases in snow mold in most cases. Research from professor Doug Soldat at Wisconsin has shown that potassium fertilization can increase snow mold on creeping bentgrass but professors Bruce Clarke and Jim Murphy from Rutgers have shown that it can decrease snow mold on annual bluegrass, so knowing the predominant grass species on your course can help drive your fertilization priorities.

Snow mold pressure was lower than normal across most of the northern U.S. last winter, but there were pockets where it

FIGURE 1



Figure 1. The snow mold pressure at Marquette GC in Marquette, Mich., wasn't as high as it normally was, but it was still high enough to provide a solid test of the research treatments.

was severe. Snow mold was limited in our own research trials in southern Wisconsin, central Wisconsin and Minnesota due to dry and cold conditions. Our trial at Marquette GC in Marquette, Mich., had decent snow mold pressure at 54-percent disease in the non-treated controls (Figure 1), though normally this site averages 95- to 100-percent disease. Most treatments that included two or three active ingredients provided exceptional snow mold control in this lower pressure environment. Special thanks to our host snow mold superintendents Aaron Hansen at Wausau CC, Matt McKinnon at Cragun's Resort, Craig Moore at Marquette GC and Jake Ryan at Northland CC.

To see the full results from all our snow mold research please visit tdl.wisc.edu/results/.

DESICCATION

Desiccation injury was the biggest story across the western Great Lakes region in Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois and other states this spring. A very dry fall followed by record dry conditions in January and a severe cold snap led to widespread injury on creeping bentgrass. Though the water needs of the plant are reduced in winter because it's mostly in a dormant state, those water needs aren't zero, so prolonged plant water loss in excess of water intake will

Continued on page 24

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Continued from page 22

lead to injury and potentially plant death. Previous research by Bill Kreuser, Ph.D. from GreenKeeper found that crown water content below approximately 50 percent results in an increased chance of injury to winter desiccation (Figure 2). Elevated parts of the golf course, locations that are exposed to more wind, turf on sandy soils and sites with significant thatch are all more susceptible to winter desiccation injury.

Kreuser has more experience studying winter desiccation injury and prevention strategies than just about anyone. In 2019, Kreuser wrote an article for *Golfdom* detailing the results of his research on desiccation injury prevention (golfdom.com/prevent-winter-desiccation-on-creeping-bentgrass/). In short, their results found that physical barriers that retained moisture such as permeable and impermeable covers and heavy sand topdressing provided the best protection against desiccation injury. Other treatments like wetting agents, pigments or antitranspirant products had minimal effects on reducing winter injury.

The results from Kreuser's research matches what we observed in the field this spring. Courses that covered greens using a permeable cover had much less winter injury

FIGURE 2

Continuum of crown moisture and cold temperature tolerance

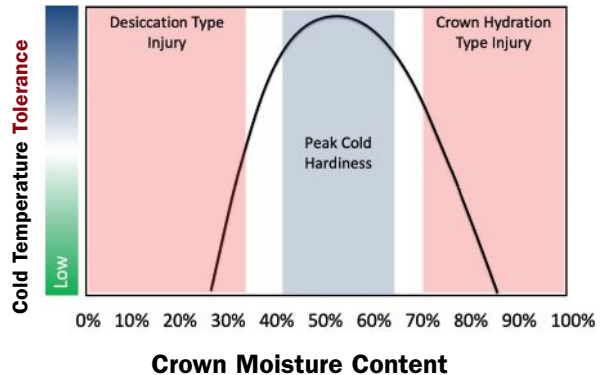


Figure 2. Crown moisture content related to both winter desiccation injury. Too much moisture can lead to crown hydration injury, too little can lead to desiccation injury.

this year compared to those that didn't because the covers retained more moisture for the plant (Figure 3).

Continued on page 26

FIGURE PROVIDED BY: BILL KREUSER



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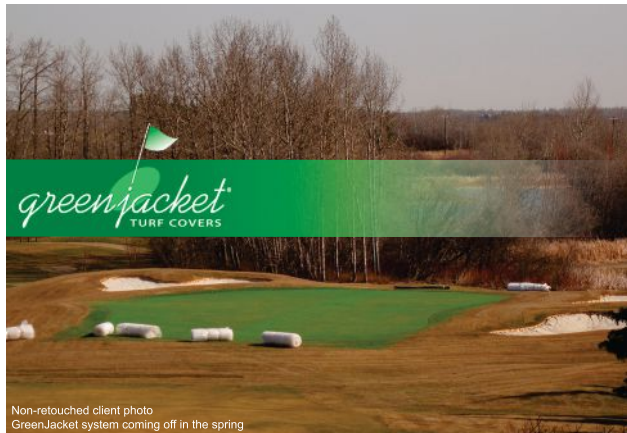
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FIGURE 3



Figure 3. It was a good year to use winter covers to prevent against desiccation injury.

Continued from page 24

ICE ENCASEMENT AND CROWN HYDRATION

Crown hydration occurs when water freezes inside the cells of the plant's crown, rupturing the membrane and leading to cell death. This normally occurs when a rainfall is followed by a rapid and extreme drop in temperatures.

Ice encasement occurs following prolonged ice cover that decreases oxygen and increases toxic gases like methane, which can lead to plant death in as little as 30 days for annual bluegrass or as much as 120 days or more on creeping bentgrass. Ice injury is more common in the Great Lakes and Northeast because of the many freeze-thaw cycles that can occur during winter in these two regions.

If desiccation is a case of too little water, crown hydration and ice encasement are usually a case of too much. While we can't control how much water falls from the sky in the winter, we have more control over what happens to that water once it falls. Providing for ample surface drainage is critical to move water off the putting surfaces. This includes sand dams and other water obstructions at the collar that prevent rain and melting snow from fully flowing off the putting surface. In addition, impermeable covers may provide protection by keeping the water from reaching the crown while both impermeable and permeable covers may provide some ice encasement prevention by creating a layer of air separation between the ice and the turf.

DIRECT LOW TEMPERATURE INJURY

Every organism has a minimum temperature at which they can survive, and while this isn't something we often think about in turfgrass, different grass species have been reported to have different minimum temperature thresholds.

James Beard, Ph.D., in his seminal textbook, "Turfgrass: Science and Culture," reported that annual bluegrass was susceptible to direct low temperature injury beginning at -4 degrees F while creeping bentgrass could survive temperatures up to -40

PHOTO BY: PAUL KOCH

FIGURE 4



Figure 4. The most severe winter injury on this green in Wisconsin was localized to the front left corner (see left photo). But when you zoom out, it's not hard to see the impact the tree is having on plant health.

degrees F. Usually, low temperature injury hasn't been considered a common type of winter injury, but Kreuser has observed that plants stressed from drought are much more sensitive to

low temperature injury than those that aren't. This would support what we saw in Wisconsin and surrounding states this past winter when very dry conditions were followed by a severe cold snap

of temperatures dipping down below -20 degrees F. Likely the only effective method to prevent direct low temperature injury is physical protection through the addition of covers and possibly through the application of heavy sand topdressing in late fall.

THE BEST DEFENSE IS A HEALTHY PLANT

All the forms of winter injury discussed above have different mechanisms that kill the plant in different ways. However, in all these cases, the best defense against winter injury is a healthy plant going into winter. A healthy plant has ample carbohydrates stored up to last the long winter ahead and can better endure stresses.

One of the most common factors leading to winter injury is sunlight,

Continued on page 28

UNDERDOG Golfdom 2026 CALENDAR

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RAIN BIRD



JOHN DEERE GOLF

Continued from page 27

especially south-facing sunlight during the fall (Figure 4). Less sunlight means less photosynthesis which means less excess energy to convert to carbohydrates for long-term storage during the winter. Assessing where shade is a problem during both the summer and fall is one of the most effective ways to reduce all forms of winter injury.

The desiccation injury from this past winter was exacerbated by a significant drought last fall. Because the plant's water needs aren't as high in the late fall and the season is ending soon, we often don't think to irrigate very often during this period, but adequate water in the fall is crucial for the plant.

Mechanical stresses during the fall can also stress the turf and lead to winter injury. I visited a course this spring that had mild to moderate

desiccation injury through much of the course, but severe injury that required overseeding in areas where they verticut last fall. The stress from the verticutting coupled with the drought and cold stress made the injury to these areas much more severe than over the rest of the course.

WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN WINTER INJURY RESEARCH?

Is winter injury a concern at your golf course? Do you want to help conduct research that will help us learn more about preventing winter injury?

If you said yes to both of those questions, then you should join our WinterTurf research team! WinterTurf is a research project supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture and Specialty

Crop Research Initiative under award number 2021-51181-35861. A critical part of the project is having golf course superintendents from around the world participate in the project by submitting regular observations from their golf course throughout the winter. The research team then uses the data provided by the superintendents to better understand the conditions that lead to various forms of winter injury, which will then help us develop better prevention strategies.

To learn more about the WinterTurf project please visit: <https://winterturf.umn.edu/>. To learn more about data collection at your course and to sign up, please visit <https://winterturf.umn.edu/data-collection>. @

Paul Koch, Ph.D., is a professor at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. He can be reached at plkoch@wisc.edu.

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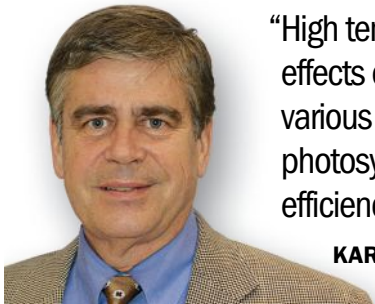
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“High temperatures cause detrimental effects on creeping bentgrass by impacting various physiological processes such as photosynthesis, respiration, water use efficiency and nutrient uptake.”

KARL DANNEBERGER, PH.D., *Science Editor*

Heat Stress: Hot times on the golf course

Creeping bentgrass putting greens are subjected to annual summertime heat stress. Rising temperatures surround the plant with rapidly rising air temperatures. Rising soil temperatures bathe the plants and low mowing heights make conditions extreme.

Although creeping bentgrass has excellent heat tolerance compared to most cool-season turfgrasses, the added factors of wear and moisture can enhance susceptibility to heat stress.

High temperatures cause detrimental effects on creeping bentgrass by impacting various physiological processes such as photosynthesis, respiration, water use efficiency and nutrient uptake. Reduced photosynthetic activity in creeping bentgrass can cause a decline in carbohydrate production and storage. This ultimately leads to weakened turfgrass with reduced energy reserves, making them more susceptible to environmental stresses and diseases.

Furthermore, heat stress disrupts the balance between water uptake and transpiration in creeping bentgrass. Under hot conditions, creeping bentgrass may experience increased water loss through transpiration, leading to dehydration and wilting of the turf-

grass. Water stress can further exacerbate any negative symptoms.

Nutrient uptake is a critical process that can be affected by high-temperature stress. As soil temperatures rise above 70 degrees F then approach or exceed the mid 80s, those high temperatures can impair the root system's ability to absorb essential nutrients from the soil, leading to nutrient deficiencies in the turfgrass plants. This nutrient imbalance can hinder overall growth and development.

Prolonged exposure to heat can also cause browning, thinning and patchiness in creeping bentgrass, diminishing its visual appeal. Often alone or exacerbated by moisture deficits, the leaves become thin and spindly, almost like fine fescue, leading to an appearance of decreased turf density.

To mitigate the impact of high-temperature stress on creeping bentgrass, golf course superintendents can implement various cultural and

management strategies. These may include proper irrigation scheduling to maintain soil moisture levels, appropriate fertilization to support turfgrass health and aeration to improve soil oxygenation and root development. Regularly scheduled plant growth regulator applications can help maintain a quality turf during summer stress by slightly limiting moisture stress through reducing transpiration. The impact of reducing transpiration is measurable but not severe enough to add to temperature stress.

Transpiration is the most effective process for cooling plant temperatures. Evapotranspiration dissipates heat from the plant. In situations where shade exists, like shaded putting greens or greens in low-lying areas, air movement across the turf is needed. Consider tree removal as an effective means for increasing air movement, which also provides more light to the turf. Properly installed fans are effective means for cooling turf when the removal of trees or other obstructions is not possible.

When possible, I recommend choosing heat-tolerant creeping bentgrass cultivars. Identifying the best heat tolerant cultivars is not as easy as “give me a list.” I’ve found that getting as much input from experts in your region is a good place to start. Check with university researchers in the area, your seed company and your fellow golf course superintendents to see what they recommend. If a number of golf courses in your area have had good success with a specific cultivar or two, that is a strong starting point.

High-temperature stress can have significant implications for creeping bentgrass health and performance, making it crucial that superintendents understand how plants regulate temperature and act accordingly. **G**

Karl Danneberger, Ph.D., *Golfdom's* science editor and a professor at The Ohio State University, can be reached at danneberger.1@osu.edu.

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Photo to the right shows greens 3 weeks post-aerification. The green on top received Genesis Rx 3-4-3 Zeolite Plus compared to the green on the bottom that received sand only.



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Secondary Elements	✓	✓
Micronutrients	✓	✓
Humic DG	✓	✓
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Super surfactant use

HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF THIS CRUCIAL GOLF PRODUCT

By Nathan Mader

Playing a key role in soil and turf health through water retention and distribution, experts say building a proper soil surfactant program that is specific to your course is crucial. Understanding the products and when to apply them is one thing, but knowing how each new chemistry impacts a course's particular turf and soil type in different climates can be even trickier.

"Ask yourself, 'What am I trying to achieve with this application? What is my goal?'" says Matt Fleetwood, R&D and technical service manager at Aquatrols. "I have rain coming — what's the best chemistry?"

Fleetwood recommended reaching out to distributors for help and questions when building the perfect soil surfactant program, but beyond that, we asked our industry experts for their best tips and tricks for making the most of these key products. 

Numerator Technologies

TAYLOR TURNER

CEO

There is a reason turf types are separated into two categories: warm and cool season. We always recommend a preventative program for both warm- and cool-season (turf) to stay in front of the disruptive symptoms. Yet, generally speaking, warm-season grasses normally are under longer and more days of higher extraterrestrial radiation rate requirements, so they require more applications within a calendar year. The honest truth is if the climate is hot, dry and/or windy, more applications of soil surfactants will be needed regardless of being warm- or cool-season grasses. Keep in mind, trying to 'catch up' with a treatment strategy when symptoms of repellency appear is a losing game — getting in front of symptoms is always the best.



Aquatrols

MATT FLEETWOOD

R&D and technical service manager

Superintendents typically start surfactants in the summertime and apply it monthly into fall, and then they'll stop. But what we're seeing some higher-end superintendents do, and even just some superintendents that are dialed in with their management, they're starting to apply these year-round. These soil surfactants don't break down over the winter. You are allowing that soil in the winter time to be charged with these soil surfactants so they can manage water during that wintertime. And then coming into the spring, we're seeing better green up from these plots, and you're getting on your soil surfactant program earlier. So, you're driving these roots down more, and then when they get into the summer, they can handle stress better.



A fine choice Weinert says there's tons of surfactants for a variety of climates and turf conditions.

Plant Food Co.

TOM WEINERT

Vice president of sales

Every single golf course superintendent has a different idea of what their expectations

are from a particular product — like a wetting agent — and how to achieve that, and I think a wetting agent is one of those products that takes a longer time to get settled in on because there is so much variation in climate. Today it's 90 degrees and raining, but tomorrow it's 75 degrees and sunny and dry, and we have a different set of circumstances. Trying to pick a particular product that does everything for everyone is incredibly difficult, and that's why I recommend using flexible, short-term wetting agents. It's all about providing the control that users are looking for to deal with the circumstances of the next five to seven days.



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2025 Partners



Know your foe: Annual bluegrass weevil

Experts warn the pest is spreading to the Midwest

By Seth Jones

If there's an area that keeps getting scuffed by the mower, the crew member who was blamed for it might be due an apology.

"Maybe your employees aren't as bad at mowing certain areas as maybe you thought," says Nathan Nordstedt Ph.D., technical service manager, Quali-Pro. "If you have little pockets that are drying down quicker, maybe some severe spots with some scalping, it could be ABW (annual bluegrass weevil) damage."

Nordstedt says superintendents are reporting ABW damage from areas where it hadn't previously been seen.

"Ohio, Michigan, Illinois ... unfortunately, I recently received a call from Nebraska," Nordstedt says. "At this time, it's still sporadic. We're not saying it's a widespread issue in all of those states, but we are getting the calls. It might be coming in from sod. There are many ways this pest can move. That's why we recommend: have a plan in place."

Spotting ABW requires a careful look at your turf and pest activity.



THE GOLD STANDARD

The first step is to properly identify the pest, says James Hempfling, Ph.D., Green Solution Team for Envu.

"ABW damage often gets mistaken for anthracnose or drought or heat stress, so getting a knife in the ground and actually looking for larva is a key tip," Hempfling says. "I think folks probably have ABW and see that damage for a year or two, and maybe it's by the third year they get a knife in the ground and realize, 'Hey, I think this is what's causing this decline.'"

Hempfling says this year has been "a relatively standard year" for ABW, and folks who had their programs dialed in have had success in holding the pest at bay.

Nordstedt agrees, and suggests superintendents visit Suprado.com to learn more about ABW and the insecticide Suprado, which he calls "the gold standard" for ABW control. Suprado is an insect growth regulator (IGR) with the active ingredient novaluron.

"We always talk about how important it is to be proactive with most of our approaches, and Suprado is no different. We have research to back that Suprado is able to control multiple generations of the ABW, so you're not just going out with something like a pyrethroid where you're just going to get that quick knockdown control," he says.

"What we're looking for with a product like Suprado is, thinking of those really early spring applications, before you're hitting the 175 GDD (growing degree day) time point, and making those applications so that way you're getting it down, you're taking advantage of that residual activity



The cause of these collar troubles was a mystery, until it was properly identified as ABW damage.

that you're getting with a product like Suprado and you're getting control of both the adults as they're migrating, but then also getting control of those early larval instars, and those are the ones that are doing the most damage."

Hempfling also endorses Suprado, as well as Tetrino insecticide, for superintendents.

"Our ABW program involves an adulticide application. We try to focus on using phenological and growing degree day model-based approaches to time any of these initial applications for ABW," Hempfling says. "That adulticide application timing ... something like Suprado results in really great control down the road and setting yourself up for success. The Suprado application at the traditional adulticide timing, 150 growing degree days for example, then you follow that with a Tetrino application at the traditional larvicide application timing — somewhere around 200 to 400 growing degree days. Your phenological indicators and scouting also can help, but that that one-two punch Suprado/Tetrino — I struggle to think of a simpler, more effective program." 

PHOTOS COURTESY OF QUALI-PRO

QUALI-PRO

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The 19th Hole



Jay SaGurney

SUPERINTENDENT AND GROOMING MANAGER // Double Black Diamond GC at Holiday Valley Resort, Ellicottville, N.Y.

Jay, after 18 holes, what do you typically drink?

It depends on how the round went, but you can never go wrong with bourbon — Woodford Reserve if they've got it.



Tell me about the course. It's pretty unique. The front nine is pretty flat — it's on the base of the ski slope. There's not a lot of danger. Once you make your turn on 10, you start going up and down and across all the slopes. You have a totally different terrain on the back nine.

How did you get into the industry?

It's kind of roundabout. I went to school for landscape design and ornamental horticulture. I spent 20 years in that side of the industry. I got burnt out — I took an assistant's job at Holiday Valley, regrouped, and I haven't turned back since.

What's your favorite tool to get the job done?

It's either a pocketknife or a 10-ton groomer ... it depends on what we're doing that day.

Do you have a family? What do you do for fun?

I'm married; it's 12 years this year. I've got two adult stepchildren. Whenever we can, Pam and I like to get away for a real quick weekend — we plan a good road trip every now and then.

What teams do you root for? I'm a western New Yorker, so it's Buf-



// BEST ADVICE

"SOMEBODY TOLD ME A LONG TIME AGO — LISTEN. BE OPEN TO OTHER PEOPLE'S IDEAS AND OPINIONS. I THINK YOU CAN LEARN A LOT BY NOT SAYING ANYTHING."

falo through and through. Bills and Sabres, even though the Sabres aren't doing so great right now, I'll always stay with Buffalo.

Give me a recommendation, it can be anything.

I'm probably on my third or fourth time going through Ted Lasso. I can keep watching it. It's quirky, and every time you watch it, there's something new you missed the first time. There's all these hidden meaning and jokes — it's very well written.

What was on the radio during your morning commute today?

I have a 45-minute drive in, so I usually find something on Nugs.net; it's a streaming platform for jam bands. I listen to a part of a set — moe., or Wide-spread Panic or Grateful Dead. My all-time favorite

band is moe. — I started following them back in the '90s during college.

Do you have a most memorable day at work?

My very first day here at Holiday Valley. It was significant because I was making a major career change, and it was a tough choice to leave my previous career. My first day here I walked the course — which is a challenge itself, to walk this course — and I just took a couple hours to reflect and think about things. It was a good choice. I'm pretty happy with it.

As interviewed by Seth Jones, June 26, 2025.

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