

# University of Minnesota Turf Talk

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**I was curious as to how many of you are spiking your greens on a regular basis?** Timing, equipment, depth etc. I'm just doing some thinking about my aerification program. Oh oh, there I go thinking outside the box again! – *Jack MacKenzie, North Oaks Golf Club*

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Funny, I too, have been thinking outside the box. Actually, I was having a discussion earlier this winter with my young assistant, on things I did when I first got into the business, and spiking was one of them. I am contemplating having my mechanic build a set for our Greensking. I am thinking to utilize this equipment as I do with everything in life, enjoy in moderation.

Great topic. Hope we get some feedback. Speaking of other old practices, does anyone still brush their greens? – *Kevin*

*Clunis CGCS, Tanners Brook GC*

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We returned to spiking greens last summer. We used our Toro Sandpro with a spiker attachment. The spikes were well worn and did not penetrate as deep as we would have like so we are replacing them this winter. We spiked only three times. Once in May, July and September. With the sandpro it does take some extra time and we spike in two directions. The spiking in July was critical. We should have better results this next year with the new spikes.

**How many guys still verticut?** We do not have a set of verticutters but we do have groomers for our triplex reels. We adjusted the groomers according to our needs, some times double grooming the greens. First we broomed, groomed 2x, then topdressed. We did adjust our

aggressiveness depending on the weather conditions and growth of the turf. We did not broom or groom in July. We resumed this practice in late August.

The brooming before the grooming was critical to removing more leaf tissue and the second grooming actually removed more leaf tissue than the first cut.

Combining all of these practices led to what I felt was smoother more consistent greens. – *Jeff Johnson, The Minikahda Club*

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We did spike last year - monthly, using the Sand Pro also. Brush occasionally, but lightly as a supplement when verticutting is too aggressive.

Last season we ended up settling into a routine of scheduling our practice of verticutting and topdressing around a needed watering of greens. Half of the prescribed

*(Continued on Page 15)*

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## Turf Talk—

(Continued from Page 14)

amount of water was applied between 4-6 am through the Site Pro scheduling and completed at least 1 hour before we got started with the verticutting on the respective greens.

We verticut in one direction, double cut to facilitate a thorough removal of debris, topdressed, and fertilized with .25lb of a balanced N:K, (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> granular. Using the handhelds, we then finished the needed watering cycle and effectively moved everything into the turf canopy without the need to brush.

Our topdressing amounts were relative to growth and ranged between 2 and 3 cu.ft/1000. The frequency of this procedure was usually 10-14 days. I have a question on others topdressing amounts and frequency, primarily on Penncross bent/poa greens. I am accused here of not putting down enough. Thanks, everyone. - Joe Buege, Pebble Creek Country Club

\* \* \* \*

Great posts guys. Joe, I topdress my greens almost every Sunday night through the season. Put down light using the SP1530 top dresser, the application is then watered into the canopy with the evenings irrigation cycle. We don't mow on Monday so the top dressing gets another sprinkling to knock it down further. No sand pick up on Tuesday! My mechanic's dream come true!

When I used to topdress heavily following 5/8th's core aerification, I would spike to break the matrix of sand that had developed over the aerification holes. Done soon enough after the first drag, the dry sand flows into the ground like sand in an hour glass. Drag again, and much of the top dressing has infiltrated the soil. -- Jack MacKenzie, CGCS, North Oaks Golf Club

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Greens- as needed, usually monthly  
Tees- about same as greens  
fairways- about three times/season-  
roughs-as required.

Determined by quality of cut, turf den-

sity, and weather conditions. Too hot or too cold, don't touch.

Used to spike greens monthly to aid input penetration. With hydroject, frequent topdressing, and wetting agents, use has diminished. Besides, I sold the old GM3, these units were on! -- Greg Hubbard, CGCS, Manitou Ridge Golf Club

### WILEY vs. SOLID ROLLERS

I was curious to see what most of you use for rollers on your walking greens mowers. We are currently using Wiley rollers on our toro 1000's and with the new expansions that we are building on our greens I am wondering if we would be better off changing to solid rollers to reduce the wear and tear on the clean-up passes? What are the pros and cons of these different types of rollers? -- Jeff Johnson, The Minikahda Club

\* \* \* \*

Jeff, I triplex my greens, but plan to start a clean-up walker program next year

(Continued on Page 19)

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## Turf Talk-

(Continued from Page 15)

My units will be set at .135 or so (a bit above my triple reels) and have solid rollers. Although my clean-up doesn't have the pronounced wheel marks often seen on triplex greens, I am concerned with the limited health of these areas. Also, I use Primo and will continue to mow the clean up on an every third day regime. -*Jack MacKenzie, CGCS, North Oaks Golf Club*

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Jeff, If the area starts to show stress, solid is the way to go. Because we mow the clean-up pass every third day it has not been needed. -*Jim Nicol, CGCS, Hazeltine National Golf Club*

\* \* \* \* \*

Jim, we also rotate the days we do the clean-up passes but now with the greens becoming more "squared" the mowers will put more stress on the turf in these areas. I will be watching closely for stressed turf and, if need

be, I might have to switch to a solid roller. Will the solid roller allow us to get as close of a cut as the Wiley at .125"? I ask this because I thought the reason for using the Wiley rollers was for the ability to get a better cut at a lower height. What are some of the down falls of the solid rollers? Debris collecting on the roller would be one of my concerns, what else can you veterans tell me? -*Jeff Johnson, The Minikahda Club.*

\* \* \* \* \*

On two of my greens I walk mow 6x/wk (skip Monday) with solid rollers. Turf stays as good as I can (shade, air movement, etc). By bench setting (.140) at the same height it actually cuts higher thus better for the turf. We also use Primo @.08 bi-weekly and mow clean-up lap every other day. -*Kevin Clunis, CGCS, Tanners Brook Golf Course.*

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(Editor's Note: You can access Turf Talk at [www.turf.umn.edu](http://www.turf.umn.edu) Your input is wanted and needed. This is a great vehicle to learn what your peers are thinking and doing around the state.)

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