

The Cumulative Effect

By BOB VAVRE
Senior USGA Agronomist

With yet another significant thaw/freeze event, the chances of courses entering spring without injury to Poa annua appears less likely. Two consecutive days in the mid-50s during the 6th and 7th of March melted most of the ice and snow remaining on greens. As greens lost ice cover a strong smell of decaying grass was noticed—never a good sign. Samples taken from greens often yielded live bentgrass and dead Poa annua.

To make matters worse, the short-lived warm spell ended with 0.1" of rain and a rapid drop in temperature to 15°F on March 8. Greens that were free from snow/ice became skating rinks overnight. More damage likely occurred to turf already weakened by several previous similar weather patterns. Then nighttime temperatures in the low teens this week are not helping the situation at a time of the year when turf has lost most of its winter hardiness.

Superintendents at courses where greens possess a high percentage of Poa annua and surface drainage is less than ideal are hoping for the best and preparing for the worse. Significant damage will need to be overseeded and covered to accelerate recovery. Keeping play off damaged sites will be an unpopular, but, extremely important component of the recovery process.

An extra effort is being made to inform golfers, golf course owners, and other interested parties about the potential for extensive turf loss this spring. An informal morning event regarding winter injury will be held at Midland Hills Country Club in St. Paul on May 6 from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.,

(Editor's Note: Bob Vavrek may be reached at rvavrek@usga.org.)

T.I.P. INC.



DISTRIBUTED BY

TEE SHOT MARKETING, INC.



1-800-950-4288 OR 1-952-881-2256
WEBSITE: WWW.TEESHOT.ORG
E-MAIL: INFO@TEESHOT.ORG

TEE SHOT
MARKETING, INC.

Kawasaki

UTILITY VEHICLES

- Liquid-cooled, V-Twin engine
- Air intake system overhead
- 1,330 lb. load capacity
- Rack & pinion steering
- Sound-insulated and extra-quiet muffler
- Governed to 16 mph safety
- Lock-out differential for min. ground disturbance
- Full line of accessories available

**CARRIES JUST ABOUT
EVERYTHING
BUT A BIG PRICE TAG.**



KAWASAKI 3020 MULE™

Call Tim Commers or
Steve Scanlan today...
(612) 333-3487
or Toll Free
1 (800) 759-5343

CUSHMAN MOTOR CO., INC.

2909 EAST FRANKLIN AVENUE, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55406
(612) 333-3487 • Fax (612) 333-5903 • Toll Free 1-800-759-5343