

## Managing Greens

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### Spring Aerification

One of the main benefits of coring greens is to improve air and water exchange between the soil and atmosphere. This encourages deeper and more extensive rooting. The roots are growing in the spring but the water infiltration problems, that we normally confront, occur in the summer.

If greens are aerified in early spring the beneficial affects may be completely lost by summer and the greens often become very compacted and impervious. If greens are to receive only one spring aerification, then why not delay aerification until late spring. This would maximize water infiltration rates during summer and minimize localized dry spots.

### Irrigation Management

No one can tell you how to water your greens. They are all different. You have control of the irrigation problem in the spring and fall, but the grass itself dictates the irrigation program during the summer. A minimum irrigation frequency is very important to obtain maximum root growth during spring and fall, but during summer when roots are normally short and evapotranspiration rates are high a frequent irrigation program is necessary. If you do not get maximum root growth rate in fall, winter and spring then an excess of

summer irrigation troubles can be expected.

### Mowing Management

The golfers, themselves, greatly influence our mowing heights and frequencies. On some courses the greens must be mowed daily and yet on others the membership seems to be satisfied with 3-4 cuttings per week. In order to get maximum top and root growth, we must remember that a less frequent mowing is usually superior. Anytime the grass is under stress, delayed mowing can be very beneficial. Excessive frequency and very short mowing heights in the spring can result in shorter and less vigorous roots in summer.

In summary, if we *neglect* or *over-manage* greens during the cool seasons of the year, we can expect more problems during the summer. Look at each management practice and determine how it may affect the bentgrass as it enters the summer stress period.

## In Memoriam

In January Mr. David Edgar passed away. Dave was a member of our association for many years and had been a retired superintendent for the past 15 years. Dave, who was a native of Scotland and a World War I veteran, was Superintendent at the Elk Ridge Club in Baltimore from 1947 to 1960. He is survived by his wife Ruth and a number of nieces and nephews.

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