
Two alternatives to turf rolling that may achieve increased putting green speed include (a) excessively close mowing and (b) frequent topdressing. However, very close mowing eventually introduces problems in terms of a weakened turf, with resultant thinning that provides openings for moss and algae invasion. Topdressing is more expensive and disruptive of play.

This author first observed a newly developed mobile, mechanically powered turf roller for putting greens over 7 years ago in Melbourne, Australia. It led to authorship of a turf rolling article in the January 1986 issue of *Grounds Maintenance*. Now after 6 years, the interest in turf rolling of high-sand root zone greens has increased to the point that US turf equipment manufacturers are developing powered mechanical models of turf rollers specifically designed for putting greens. A prime time for use of a turf roller to achieve increased smoothness and distance of ball roll is just prior to tournaments. There is a learning curve of proper utilization of a turf roller, as with any cultural practice being considered for routine use. A significant portion of this technical information remains to be generated.

A primary precaution in the routine use of turf rolling is to employ it primarily in situations where potential soil compaction is minimal, such as high-sand root zones of the proper particle size distribution. Soils with significant clay contents have a much greater potential for soil compaction from turf rolling, plus associated problems in maintaining turfgrasses. This may limit turf roller use at a minimal frequency if at all on clayey soils, and if used the turf roller selected should impose a lighter pressure than on high-sand root zones.

Based on the studies reported herein, and especially in view of the golfer's desire for fast putting greens, it is evident that turf rolling will become a more important and perhaps a significant routine component in the cultural

maintenance program of high-sand putting greens. As with any cultural practice, turf rolling should not be viewed as a panacea to solve a multiplicity of problems. Rather, it is one additional component in a range of cultural practices available to turfgrass managers to produce the highest quality surface on a cost-efficient basis, particularly in relation to the smoothness and distance of ball roll.

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UPCOMING JB VISITATIONS

Provided for Institute Affiliates who might wish to request a visitation when I'm nearby.

Feb. 23-25 - Columbus, Ohio.

Feb. 26-Mar. 3 - San Francisco/Manteca, California.

Mar. 21-26 - Saint Johns, New Brunswick, Canada.

April (tentative) - New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong.

May or early June - Europe.

Informational Notes

- Many publications from the United States refer to turfgrass "varieties." This term is used in the US seed trade. However, the correct botanical term is cultivar.
- Plant taxonomist have changed the scientific name of creeping bentgrass to *Agrostis stolonifera* subsp. *stolonifera* L; from *Agrostis palustris* Huds.
- Plant pathologists continue to change names i.e. takeall patch (*Gaeumannomyces graminis* var. *avenae*) was formerly ophiobolus patch (*Ophiobolus graminis* Sacc.).