



The Mountain State Greenletter

Volume 16, Issue 8
August 2024

West Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

Board of Director's Message

In a July press release, the GCSAA announced that “The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), in conjunction with other global superintendent groups, is recognizing those who are essential to golf’s success with an international “Thank a Golf Course Superintendent Day,” encouraging all golfers, those who are in the golf business or anyone who benefits from the game to thank superintendents for their hard work and dedication to the game. “Thank a Golf Course Superintendent Day” 2024 will be celebrated Sept. 10.”

Recognition like this is great for the game and our industry but, for me, it is especially meaningful during a year like 2024 when our dedication and patience has been tested. The weather and drought conditions have been relentless, and it’s been harder than ever to do our jobs. I would like to congratulate you and your team for the work that you’ve done and the way that you’ve had to do it this year! Your tenacity and commitment to your courses deserves to be recognized and I hope that your membership and communities take the time to tell you.

Looking forward to cooler temperatures, precipitation and to seeing you at our fall meeting.

#ThankASuper

**Mitch Roush
President, Riverside Golf Course**

Upcoming Events:

***Fall Meeting ~ Pete Dye Golf Club ~ October 15, 2024
Education Credits Given for GCSAA, WV & PA***

*

***WVGCSA Turf Conference ~ Coonskin Park &
Mardi Gras Casino ~ November 12-13, 2024
Registration Form included***

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*WVGCSA Turf Conference at Coonskin Park, Charleston
Hotel and Vendor Reception at Mardi Gras Casino, Cross Lanes
November 12-13, 2024*

**Official Registration Form
WVGCSA Turf Conference**

NAME _____

ADDITIONAL PERSONS _____

FACILITY _____

ATTENDING BANQUET _____ (Including Guests)

Registration Detail

Members: Number attending entire conference
_____ @ \$125 = \$ _____ (includes banquet)

Non-Members: Number attending entire conference
_____ @ \$165 = \$ _____ (includes banquet)

Guests attending banquet only _____ @ \$35 = \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: WVGCSA
If you have any questions, feel free to contact
Amber Breed at 304-638-8978

Please return registration to:

**WVGCSA
PO Box 335
Charleston, WV 25322**

OR

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We are proud to announce that William C. Campbell Scholarship Winner, Philip Webb, Assistant Superintendent at Guyan Golf and Country Club has graduated from Walla Walla Community College with a BAS in Ag Systems. He is now going to attend Auburn University for his Masters in Crop, Soil, Environmental Science with Turf irrigation design. He has been a recipient of the scholarship program and would like to thank all those who have supported and donated through the years!

When the Heat Is On, Bermudagrass Shines

By Elliott L. Dowling, Regional Director, East Region

The stretches of unusually hot, humid and dry weather felt throughout the Northeast this summer have reignited bermudagrass conversations. The difficult weather, combined with courses still logging more rounds than they've done in years, decades even, has placed stress on undersized practice tees and par-3 tees.

If your course is anywhere from central Connecticut down through southern New Jersey, you are likely wondering if bermudagrass can work on tees. I know this because on every visit I've made to courses in that area this summer, superintendents are asking me this question. I'm confident, and comfortable, that bermudagrass will work because it is already being done. Interestingly, this idea has come up as far north as Massachusetts this year. It's been so hot and so difficult to keep grass on practice tees that superintendents are willing to try bermudagrass since the alternatives seem limited.

Courses that have already planted bermudagrass on practice tees have practically zero concerns with tee size this summer. Golfers can cycle through the grass surface and by the time they need to return to where they started, the turf has recovered and is ready for the next round of abuse. On the other hand, courses with creeping bentgrass, perennial ryegrass, Kentucky bluegrass or a combination of cool-season grasses on their practice tee are dealing with very slow recovery and by this time are wondering how many days they have left to use the grass.

There are a few bermudagrasses that I like for tees in the Northeast. Many courses that transitioned a few years ago have 'Latitude 36'. But thanks to the hard work of bermudagrass breeders, there are now other varieties developed specifically for northern areas, including 'Tahoma 31' and 'IronCutter'. A good option is to have both a bermudagrass and cool-season practice tee. The bermudagrass can handle the intense summer weather and then courses can switch to the cool-season tee until next summer.

If your course is plagued by an undersized practice tee or par-3 tees that can't handle all the wear and tear, then bermudagrass might be worth a try. I do have concerns about winter survivability the farther north into New England we get, but summer isn't a concern and covers can help prevent winter injury. If this has been on your mind, then perhaps experimenting with bermudagrass in a few areas next spring is worth the effort.

Northeast Region Agronomists

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Brian Gietka, agronomist – bgietka@usga.org



Bermudagrass practice tees recover quickly during summer, even if they aren't that big. If your cool-season practice tee is on its last legs in August, bermudagrass is worth considering.



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Thank you in advance for your continued support of the WVGCSA and thank you for making these educational seminars and functions a continued success; without our vendor sponsorships we would not be able to function as needed.

If you have any questions feel free to contact
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