



The Mountain State Greenletter

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West Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

Board of Director's Message

It is a slow time of year now for many of us, so I don't have much to report. Be warned, however, if you are looking to acquire new equipment for next season, I suggest you finalize your purchasing and/or leasing plans as soon as possible. We were fortunate enough to receive approval for a new TORO lease package for our club for next year. Unfortunately, delivery times for new equipment orders are quite extended. Our order was finalized late November. The distributor is "hopeful" we shall receive the new items in late April or early May. That's a pretty long wait and it is my understanding that orders placed later in 2021 and early 2022 will have even longer processing times.

May each and every one of you have a blessed holiday season. Hopefully 2022 offers us a bit more normality. Either way, I'm sure we will be ready for the challenges ahead.

Thank you,
Bobby Cline, CGCS
Guyan G&CC

WVGCSA New Website: www.wvgcsa.org

***Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!!!***

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Due to the rising Coronavirus cases in the state, the Board has decided to cancel the Turf Conference for 2021. We understand everyone still needs education credits for their pesticide licenses so we have listed a few opportunities available this fall.

~ WV Dept. of Ag - <https://wvplants.wvda.us/SecurityLogin.aspx> - click on the Pesticide Programs tab and scroll to Recertification Course Locator.

~ Western PA Turf Conference, Washington, PA - February 22-23, 2022
<https://paturf.org/>



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Throwing Shade

By Elliott Dowling, agronomist, Northeast Region

It probably isn't a stretch to assume that shade and poor growing environments are discussed on nearly every USGA Course Consulting Service visit. It is undeniable that shade can weaken grasses and growing environments should be improved as much as possible, but the focus of these conversations often revolves around issues observed during the playing season.

What doesn't get discussed as much is shade in winter. There are a few likely reasons for this. First, the colder weather in the winter means rounds are down and there are fewer golfers around to see winter shade patterns. Another reason is that the connection between winter shade and playing conditions during the primary season are not as obvious.

Just because late-season shade isn't experienced during the summer doesn't mean it's any less harmful. In fact, it could be more harmful if the shade comes in late August or September as cool-season grasses are recovering from a long, difficult summer. Shade at this time of the year means that grass cannot fully recover before winter, enters spring weak, and might not have enough time to fully recover before summer. This is a spiral that can only be broken if sunlight is improved in the fall and/or winter.

It is important that growing environments, and shade in particular, are assessed at all times of the year – not only in summer when the course is most active. If you take an objective look, you might be surprised how much weak grass during the season is connected to fall and winter shade, not summer shade.

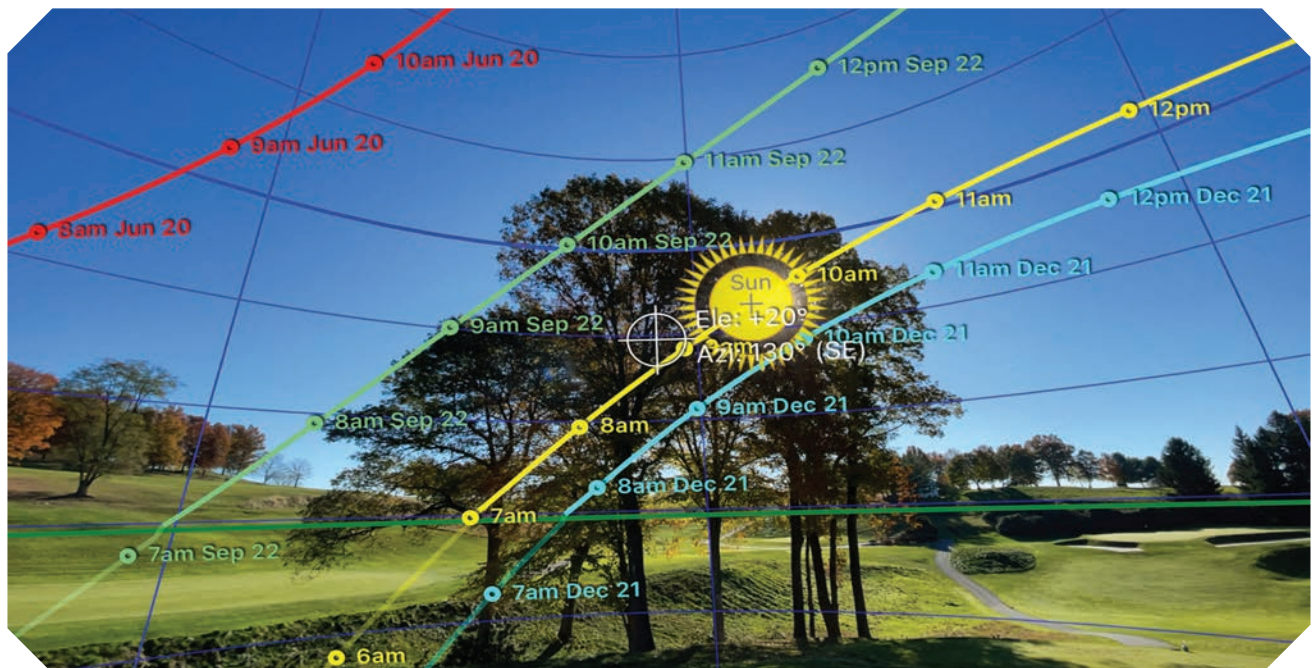
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Evaluating shade is important all year. The area near these trees is in full sunlight during summer but under a lot of shade in early fall when grasses are recovering from summer stress.



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