

The Best Bookmark To Access

Using the USGA Green Section website as an information resource.

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IN TODAY'S SOCIETY, communication is the name of the game. We hear about how large company mergers between internet service providers and traditional news organizations bring us the latest information, in faster formats, and using new technologies that continue to change daily.

To the golf course superintendent, this new technology offers many benefits, but it also challenges you to keep up with ever-increasing volumes of information added to an already overloaded schedule. The computer has made this job much easier, both for the educator and the recipient. Fortunately, the computer has become more commonplace in our daily lives as we use it to scan prices at the grocery store, monitor bank accounts, pay bills, and order merchandise.

The advent of the internet has provided a tool for businesses to make information more readily available to their customers. Not only can it be used to provide basic information about a company, but it can be continually changed and updated on specialized topics so that consumers have the latest information available at their fingertips.

With the USGA website averaging more than 1 million hits per month and swelling to more than 8 million hits during the week of the U.S. Open, the Green Section realized a tremendous educational opportunity. A considerable amount of time and effort has been spent in the last two years to update the Green Section portion of the USGA website. Now visitors can find more information about the Green Section programs and be kept up to date about current events taking place

within the department. Our goal is to provide information about our programs and activities in an easy-to-use format.

Variety abounds, with Green Section activities encompassing the Turf Advisory Service, Construction Education Program, Turfgrass and Environmental Research, and Environmental Education Programs. On the website, a basic explanation of each of the Green Section's major programs can be found, outlining the goals, objectives, and current projects. For example, the Turfgrass and Environmental Research Program provides a history of the program and outlines current projects receiving funding. In 2000, more than 89 projects will receive a research grant from the USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Program. The website is an easy way to monitor the research taking place in your region of the country. All new research call-for-proposals are outlined on the site to supplement mailings made to turfgrass researchers.

The Construction Education Program has grown considerably since its inception in 1995. The website is a great starting point to find the current specifications for the USGA Method of Putting Green Construction and the list of soil testing laboratories accredited by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA). Information is available on new research taking place to further define the laboratory methods used to formulate putting green rootzone mixtures. Helpful articles are available for review and downloading on green, tee, and bunker construction methods, including pertinent case studies.

The Turf Advisory Service (TAS) is the heart of the Green Section's activities. Each member of the Green Section staff travels and speaks with superintendents and green committee members at hundreds of golf courses each year. Their activities provide a unique perspective that is available through no one else in the industry. One new feature of the TAS portion of the website is the addition of Regional Updates. Every two to three weeks each regional office writes a short synopsis of activities and problems taking place in their region. The topics range from the latest disease outbreaks and environmental impacts on turf conditions to educational opportunities in the region.

These updates are available through the website to help people keep informed of the latest happenings in the region and to provide helpful hints for recovering from unexpected troubles. For example, the Southeast Region agronomists were able to provide timely information to a large number of superintendents who had to endure unexpected flooding conditions. This information got into the hands of many more superintendents much more quickly than the agronomists would have been able to reach responding to individual phone calls.

Create your bookmark today to the USGA Green Section website, and visit often to access the most up-to-date information resource available.

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www.usga.org/green