

CUTT

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NYSTA Funded Research Issue

Does Mower Type Effect Turf Performance

Introduction

This study was designed to investigate the effect of various walk-behind putting green mowers on putting green performance. This report represents results from the second year of the study.

Methodology

This study was conducted from June 6, 2006 to September 27, 2006. The 2006 growing season (Figure 1) was among the top ten wettest in recorded weather history, therefore, supplemental irrigation was rarely required.

Due to the excessive precipitation, there were some days when the experimental area was too saturated to mow. On such occasions, data collection was postponed until normal mowing conditions could be resumed without collateral damage to research area.

Experimental plots were established at the Cornell University Turfgrass and Landscape Research and Education Center in Ithaca, NY on a mixed stand of creeping bentgrass (60%)/annual bluegrass (40%) (*Agrostis palustris/Poa annua*) soil-based putting green (pH = 6.7). The research area has been heavily modified with

coring and straight sand topdressing for the last four years resulting in a significant sand layer above the native soil green.

The research area was maintained to championship conditions with light frequent liquid fertilization applied weekly during the season. Total nutrient rates for the season was 3.15 lbs. N, 1.1 lbs. P and 1.5 lbs. K, all per 1000 square feet, with supplemental liquid iron for color.

In addition, light frequent sand topdressing was applied every two to three weeks depending on growth and performance. Due to the high disease pressure present throughout the season, pest management was conducted on a preventative basis. Therefore, no disease data were collected this year.

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