

blades should just barely touch the crowns of the bermudagrass. This will remove some of surface debris left over from aerifying and will reduce grain. Greens should be groomed daily at this time by using grooved rollers, brushing and/or combing.

**Between 10 and 14 days prior to the tournament,** the greens should receive a light application of topdressing. One to two cubic yards per 5000 square feet should be ample to provide the final touches in smoothing the putting surface. The topdressing material should be immediately incorporated by dragging it in several directions.

**Five days prior to the tournament.** If the greens start to lose some color due to lack of nitrogen fertilization, then application of liquid iron sources should be considered at this time. Two ounces of iron sulfate or a chelated iron source in several gallons of water should be applied per 1000 square feet. Care should be taken not to apply this during the heat of the day.

The mowing height can be reduced at this time from 3/16 inch to 5/32 or 1/8 inch. This height combined with the other management practices outlined should provide satisfactory putting conditions for the tournament.

**Three days prior to the tournament.** Begin double cutting the greens at the intended tournament height. Three days are necessary prior to the tournament before the maximum benefits from this practice are expressed. The clean-up mowing lap should be performed only once daily to prevent excessive tearing of the grass or soil compaction development.

Water management during the weeks leading up to the tournament is critical. Excessive soil moisture should not be used as a method to soften the greens. Water should be applied to wet the root zone and soil allowed to dry before reapplying it. However, with the added stresses of a lower mowing height and double cutting, constant inspection for wilting should occur and afternoon syringing may be necessary.

Once the tournament is completed, the mowing height should be raised and the greens fertilized to aid in recovery from the concentrated tournament play.

## References and additional reading

- Beard, J. B. 1974. Turfgrass: Science and Culture. Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, N.J.
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