A note on verdure removal, for consistency across sites

Micah Woods 28 May 2019 We are looking to collect samples from a range of grass species at putting green height, and to remove the verdure. These photos show what I've been doing in my tests of verdure removal. The photos here are all from Tifeagle at greens height.

Verdure is the layer of green living plant tissue remaining above the soil following mowing.

On putting green turf, consider verdure to be any aboveground plant material.

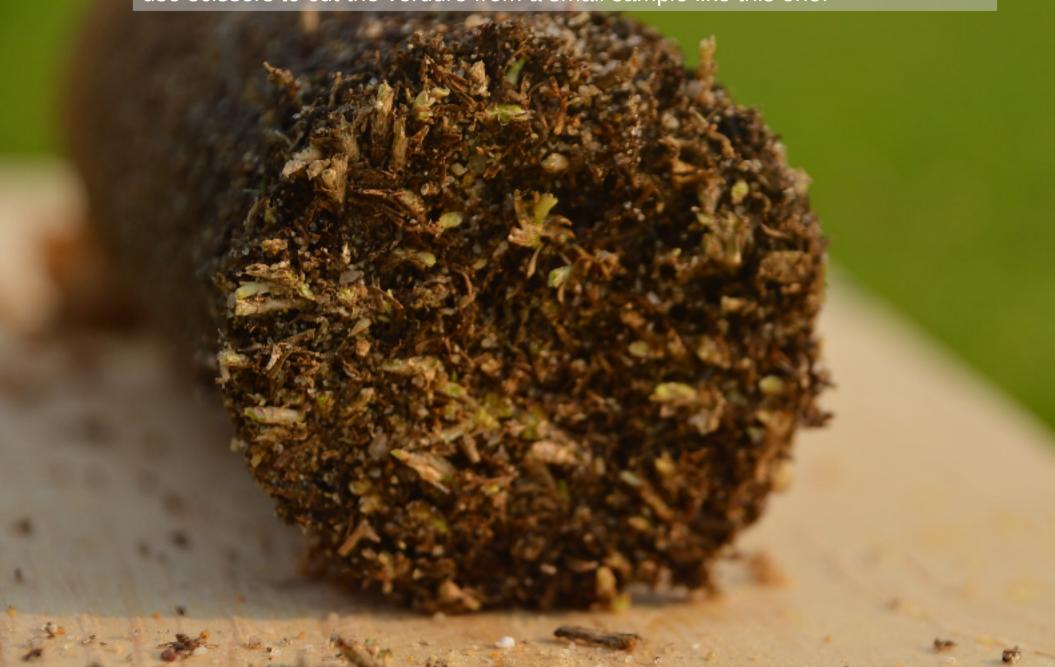
Here's a core from a Tifeagle green



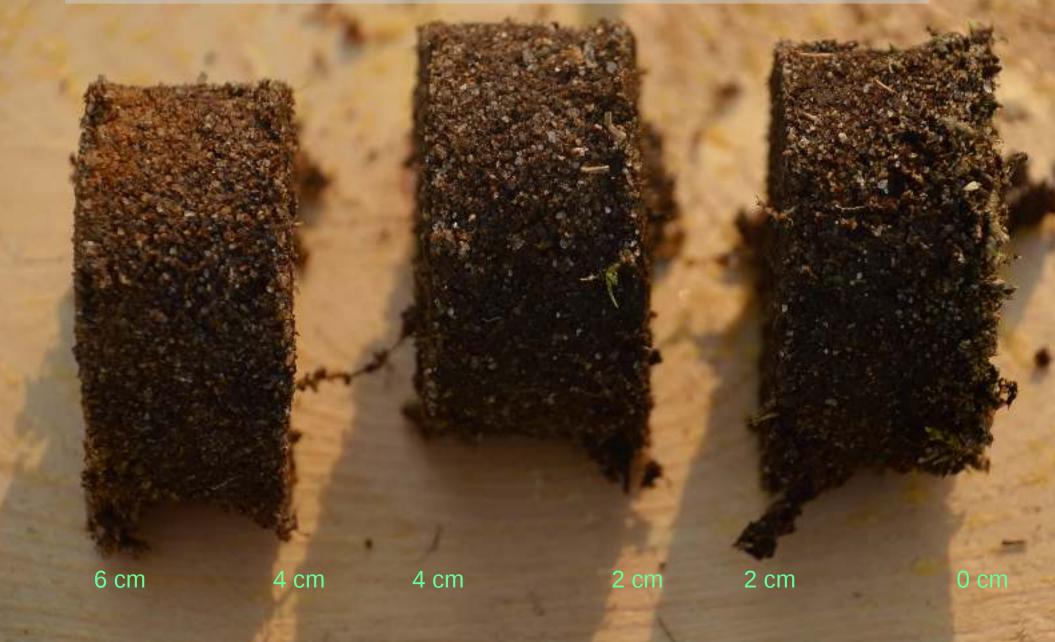




After verdure removal we've cut the leaves and stems away down to the top of the soil. There will still be a little green there. But we are also at the top of the soil. This is a sample with verdure removed. It takes me about 30 seconds to use scissors to cut the verdure from a small sample like this one.



This is a 4 cm diameter core cut to depth. The 0 point (the top of the soil) is at far right; the verdure has been cut off from the sample. The 0 point remains the same whether the verdure is on or is off the sample. The little bit of above ground verdure---the grass remaining after mowing---does not change the location of the top of the soil.



This is a core from a Tifeagle green with lots of water and lots of nutrient supply and topdressing every week. In this case, there is a lot of sand mixed with the verdure, but it is still possible to choose a point to call the top of the soil and to cut off the grass above that point.



On such a frequently topdressed green one very well may remove more sand than grass when cutting off the verdure. This is one of the reasons I want to do this type of testing with verdure left on the samples. Because leaving verdure on samples is a non-standard procedure for soil OM testing, I want to do this comparison of verdure on and verdure off. Once we can make an estimate of the magnitude of the effect of removing verdure, or leaving verdure on, then we can proceed with leaving it on. I hope.







