

A note on verdure removal, for consistency across sites

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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





The white line shows where I'd count the top of the soil (the 0 point for the 0 to 20 mm measure) and the bottom of the verdure.



Also this, showing roughly where I'd be measuring from for the 0 point, and also what I'd be looking to cut off if I were to remove verdure from this sample.

Any green that has been topdressed is going to have sand mixed with the verdure. But the verdure on a putting green is basically the effective cutting height, so it is going to be 1 to 4 mm, basically. When measuring the 0 to 20 mm sample, measure it from the top of the soil. Not from the top of the grass.



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.



Also a heavily topdressed one. See still a hint of green in the verdure removed sample. But definitely the “layer of green living plant tissue remaining above the soil after mowing” has been removed from the sample.



With scissors or a razor blade one can easily cut the grass away. When there is no more grass to cut, the verdure is gone.



I've marked these images to show approximately where I think the top of the soil is, and where the verdure ends. I think you may find it easy to do this, because as you cut the grass, it soon becomes apparent when there are no more leaves.

