Systematic improvement of golf course conditions

Micah Woods February 27, 2024

Asian Turfgrass Center www.asianturfgrass.com

PACE Turf www.paceturf.org





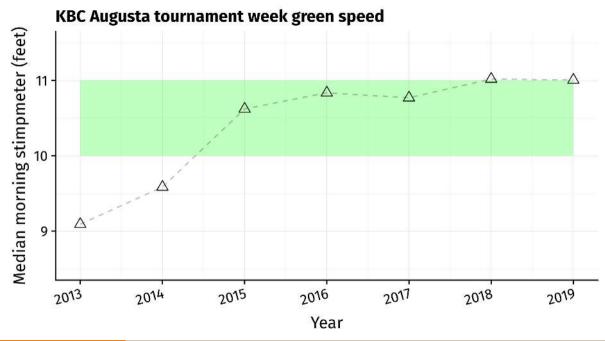


Measure playing conditions

What to measure?

- Stimpmeter
- Bobble test (smoothness, trueness)
- Surface hardness (firmness)





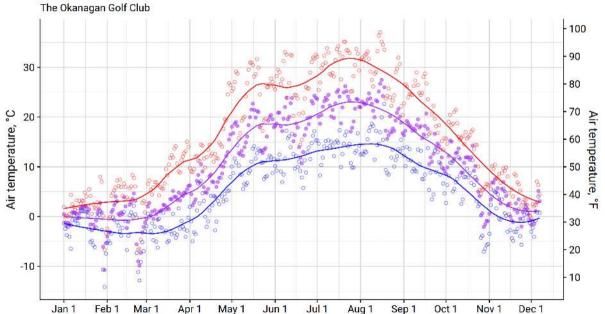
KBC Augusta tournament week surface hardness Median surface hardness (G_{max}) 105 -100 -Year

Know (and question) the N rate

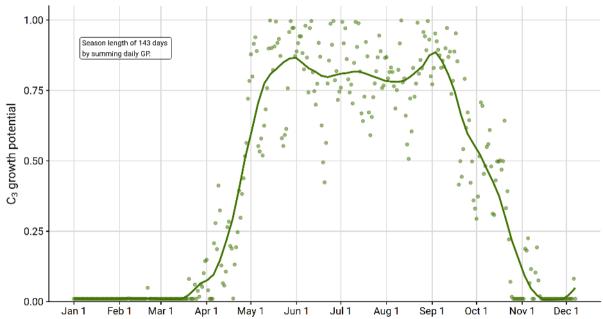




Daily temperature summary in 2023



Growth potential at The Okanagan Golf Club in 2023



Predicted daily N by GP at The Okanagan Golf Club in 2023 0.06 Total annual N of 9.3 g by summing daily GP × max daily N $N, g/m^2/d$ 0.04 0.02 0.00 Jan 1 Feb 1 Mar 1 Apr 1 May 1 Jun 1 Jul 1 Aug 1 Sep 1 Oct 1 Nov 1 Dec 1 Monthly maximum N set at 2 g

Use PGRs with purpose



Measure the clipping volume





Easy way of measuring clippings. Picture uploaded to Slack. 3 man operation, 4 greens every time the mow.



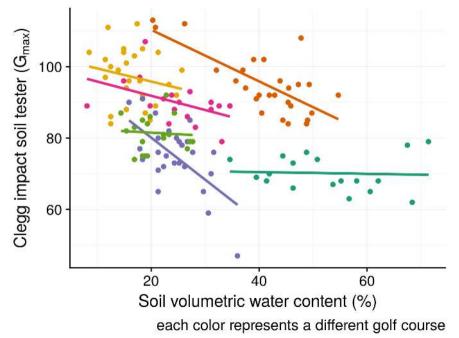
4:30 AM · Nov 1, 2022 · Twitter for Android

Example uses for the data

- Fine tune nutrient supply based on harvest
- · When to mow again based on growth
- Growth regulator effect
- Topdressing requirement

Measure the soil water content





Measure soil nutrients

Results of effective soil testing

- 1. You apply the correct fertilizer.
- 2. The grass is supplied with all the nutrients it can use.
- 3. Unnecessary fertilizer applications are eliminated.
- 4. Reduced risk of N & P pollution.

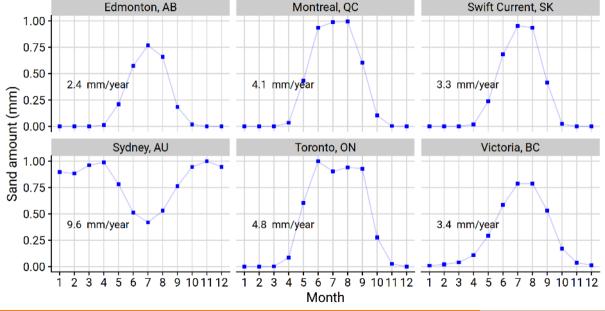
Potassium (K) mg/kg

Phosphorus (P) mg/kg

Know the sand application rate



Temperature-based growth potential prediction of sand topdressing



Measure total organic material

(OM246)

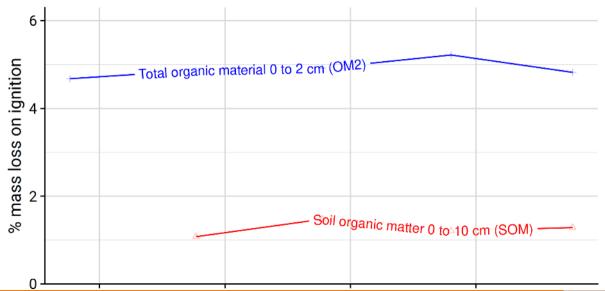






Creeping bentgrass putting greens

samples from Hazeltine National GC



Continuous improvement system components

- Measure playing conditions
- Know (and question) the N rate
- Use PGRs with purpose
- Measure the clipping volume
- Measure the soil water content
- Measure soil nutrients
- Know the sand application rate
- Measure total organic material (OM246)

Online handout with slides & more info



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