



Photo by W. Dunnivant

### Effects of grooming frequency on a TifEagle green

Ultradwarf bermudagrass cultivars are slow to recover from verticutting and may respond better to grooming. The objective of this field research was to examine the effects of frequency (one, three or six times per week) and groomer blade spacing (0.05 and 0.25 inch [1.2 and 6.0 millimeters]) on quality and agronomic performance of a TifEagle putting green. After two years of research, the effects of grooming frequency were variable. When plots were groomed one or three times per week, shoot density was sometimes higher than it was when there was no grooming. Grooming more than one or three times a week did not improve shoot density, clipping yield or ball roll distance. This project will need an additional year or two before final recommendations can be made to superintendents. A lack of definitive results points out the complexities in equipment-based plot research and the need to collect comprehensive data (ball roll, shoot density, clipping yield, etc.) that accurately identify the impact of the treatments. — **William Dunnivant and Elizabeth Guertal, Ph.D.** (eguertal@acesag.auburn.edu), Auburn University

### Effect of compost tea on putting green performance

Pressure to reduce pesticide use has created an

interest in compost tea to enhance turfgrass performance and suppress disease. Two compost teas were investigated in this field study. The teas were brewed for 12 weeks during each of three growing seasons and were applied weekly as a drench or foliar spray to an annual bluegrass/creeping bentgrass sand-based putting green. No significant differences in soil microbial measurements occurred as a result of drench applications of compost tea. Foliar application of compost tea reduced dollar spot 40% to 60% in one of three years. Given the highly variable brewing results, little microbial benefit and the labor required for brewing compost tea, it is unlikely that this technology will see widespread use in its current form. — **Frank Rossi, Ph.D.** (fsr3@cornell.edu), Cornell University



Photo by F. Rossi

### Rain gardens and urban water quality



Photo by J. Stier

Urbanization has led to an increase in impervious surfaces that indirectly feed surface waters with potentially pollutant-laden water and reduce groundwater recharge. By using a rain garden, a landscaped garden in a shallow depression that receives stormwater from the rooftop, homeowners may be able to decrease the negative impacts of rooftops on urban waters. This study investigated the presence of berms and two types of vegetation, Kentucky bluegrass turf or a native plant mix. Each plot has a separate rooftop, lysimeter and runoff weir. Leachate and runoff water samples were collected over two years. Berms significantly reduced the amount of runoff and improved potential groundwater recharge. Water quality and use were similar for turf and native plants. These results indicate that the presence of a berm appears to be the major determining factor in rain garden effectiveness, regardless of vegetation type. — **Jacob Schneider and John Stier, Ph.D.** (jstier@facstaff.wisc.edu), University of Wisconsin-Madison

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