

**Spring 2014 Course Conditions**

The winter of 2013-2014 will certainly be remembered in many parts of the South for temperature extremes, winter storms and extended periods of ice and snow coverage. Unfortunately, it will also likely be remembered for creating very difficult bermudagrass growing conditions during the spring.

During our travels in the Southeast and South Central regions, we have seen a significant amount of winter related damage to bermudagrass. The damage we have seen is widespread and has affected courses of every type in the region. Only time will tell if this damage is temporary or permanent in nature. Temporary damage will result in slower ‘’green up” and area coverage, while permanent damage could require replacement of turf.

We strongly encourage golfers and club members to be patient and supportive of your golf course superintendents. There are many agronomic practices and tools that can be utilized to help turf recover, but until the weather fully cooperates and enough time passes, it is unlikely that playing conditions will reach their full potential.

Your superintendent is very likely considering practices that may disrupt playing conditions, limit traffic access or require additional resources. Again, your support and patience is essential during this time. The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America is committed to providing our members with support and educational resources during this difficult time. We encourage you to speak with your golf course superintendent if you have any questions regarding your course’s condition and recovery process.

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