



A Brief History of the Green Section

In 1920, E.J. Marshall, a Toledo, Ohio, attorney and Green Committee chairman for the Inverness Club, was in charge of course preparations for the U.S. Open Championship. He sought, but could not find, impartial and authoritative agronomic information. His efforts led him to the USGA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The two organizations agreed to collaborate on the development of scientific information relating to golf course turf. Thus, on November 30, 1920, the Executive Committee of the United States Golf Association formally created the USGA Green Section.

This not-for-profit agency, free from commercial connections, was a pioneer and remains today a

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and weeds to the breeding and release of improved strains of turfgrass. The Green Section is involved in research pertaining to cultural practices, equipment development, soils, fertilizers, irrigation and other

chief authority in turfgrass management for golf. The USGA Green Section is directly involved in every phase of golf course maintenance and management from the control of diseases, insects

maintenance. In 1960 it developed and published the USGA Method of Putting Green Construction. Since then, this method has been regularly researched and improved, and is now used throughout the world. The Green Section's Construction Education Program serves as a central clearinghouse for this information.

The USGA supports the largest private turfgrass and environmental research effort in the history of golf. Since 1983, the USGA has placed more than \$36 million in funding university research projects. The goal is to achieve a significant reduction in water use, pesticide use and maintenance costs. A wealth of new grasses, improved maintenance practices and information pertaining to the environment is available.

The Turf Advisory Service (TAS) program takes research information directly to subscribing golf courses, and thereby contributes to better playing conditions at lower costs. The combination of research and direct golf course visits is the key to success of the USGA Green Section operations. By supporting research and offering sound, experienced agronomic advice about the scientific and practical aspects of golf course turf management, the Green Section's Turf Advisory Service provides ever greater value and better golf turf to the golf courses and course officials it services.

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Turf Advisory Service

Finding answers, sharing maintenance techniques and disseminating new information has been the goal of the United States Golf Association's Turf Advisory Service (TAS) since 1953. A staff of highly trained agronomists is strategically located throughout the United States for on-site visits and to consult with golf course superintendents and course officials who subscribe to the TAS. This nationwide network is an invaluable resource of expertise and experience for golf courses and the game of golf.

For more than 80 years, the USGA Green Section's sole mission has been to collect and distribute information on proper construction and maintenance of golf courses.

most practical and unbiased information about golf course maintenance and management.

Each TAS visit is offered as a half-day or full-day on-site visit to the golf course. The fee charged

In the early years, the Green Section emphasized research and finding answers to devastating turf problems. Today, the Green Section's support of turfgrass and environmental research has grown stronger, but equal attention is given to sharing the latest,

helps defray the USGA's costs to provide the service. In relation to the average golf course maintenance budget, the annual TAS fee is less than one-quarter of one percent.

Will the Turf Advisory Service save money for your course? Our answer is, "Yes!" The TAS provides a positive environment to discuss common problems, and realistic solutions and expectations. Our concern is with efficiency of operation, devel-

SUBSCRIBING TO THE TAS PROVIDES:

- The agronomist's on-site services, including all associated travel expenses.
- The written report that follows each visit — a permanent record of the agronomist's findings and the recommendations offered for course improvement planning, both short and long term.
- Year-round consultation by correspondence and telephone.
- Availability of agronomists at meetings, conferences and seminars, including annual USGA Regional Meetings. As speakers, Green Section agronomists help keep golf course personnel abreast of the latest in golf course maintenance and turfgrass research.



oping and maintaining high golf course standards, and providing the best possible playing conditions for golfers who use the facilities, based on the available budget and circumstances. Emphasis is placed on how good the course can be, rather than on how cheaply it can be maintained. The fact that more than 95 percent of all TAS subscribers continue regular visits is testimony to the tangible benefits of the service.

Why should anyone pay the Green Section for advice when there is free advice available from other resources? Good advice is only as good as its source, and the source is only as good as its back-

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ground, experience and actual performance. The USGA Green Section is the only agency in the country devoted solely to golf course turf, its playing conditions and its management. It sells nothing. The USGA's 18 regional agronomists make more than 1,800 TAS visits to golf courses each year. This unique experience offered to your course cannot be matched by any individual or agency anywhere.

The Turf Advisory Service is used by the biggest and smallest golf courses. Golf keeps America beautiful, and day after day, year after year, the Green Section helps golf courses produce better turf for better golf. Your golf course should be a TAS subscriber.



For current Turf Advisory Service fees and to contact your regional agronomist, visit www.usga.org.