

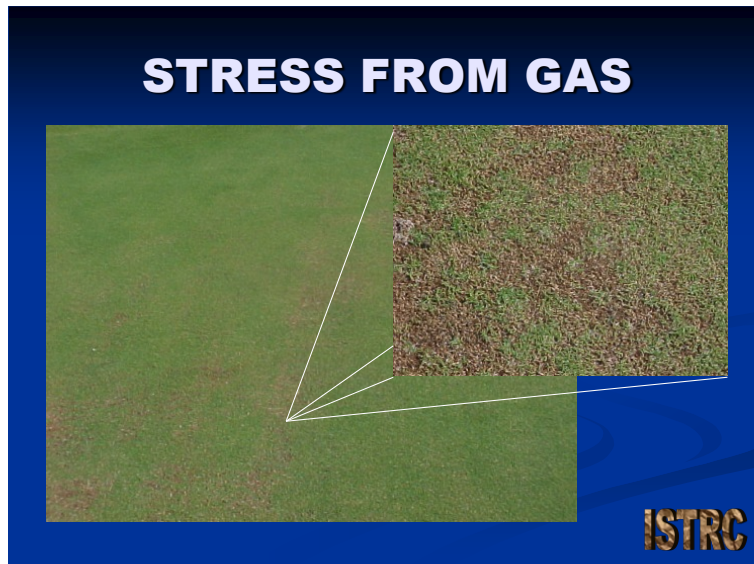
Yarn #10 [May/June 2008]

Bad guy gasses / part II

In our last article I opened up the area of "BAD GUY GASSES". **This second leading cause of green failure is still pretty much ignored when it comes to greens failing.** Bad Guy Gasses which normally come from our drain tiles and or moisture barriers are also a leading cause of green stress, especially in low and high areas of greens. In the last few years I have addressed several boards, greens committees and even a few city councils on the subject of do they need to rebuild their greens. After we have identified the **cause** of the stressed or failed turf it is pretty easy to outline to the powers to be just exactly what their options are.

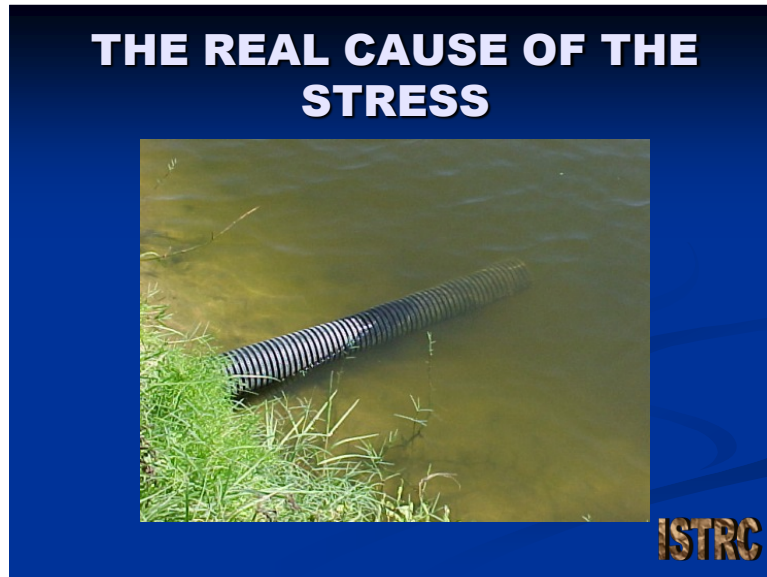
It still amazes me how many clubs rebuild greens to the tune of a million dollars or more and they don't even know why the old greens stressed or failed. The first step before spending copious amounts of monies on rebuilding or regrassing our greens is to find out **based on science** why there was a problem with the existing or older greens. Over and Over I hear the words "Well They Just Got Old". In today's world this lack of knowledge is unacceptable, as science has taken us to a place in time where most problems are now identifiable.

A few years ago I was introduced to a superintendent in S.W. Florida that was having a problem with a specific green and he had had this problem for a number of years. He told me that he had talked to every expert he could find and that there were a lot of theories and suggestions on what to do but nothing worked. Everyone agreed that the only solution was to rebuild the green in question. The Board of Directors allocated in excess of \$50,000 to remove the old green and to build a new one.



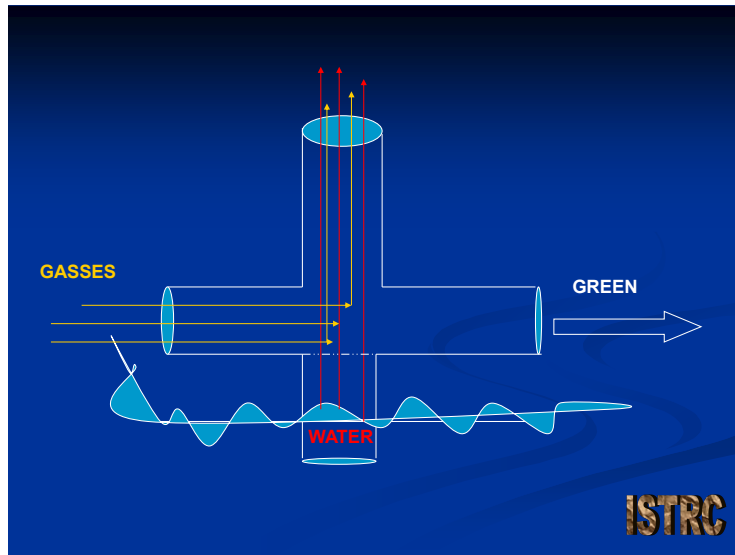
The Superintendent, who I now know to be one of the best superintendents in the country, took tremendous pride in his abilities and knowledge and wasn't so sure that rebuilding was the ultimate answer and that whatever was causing the failed area on the existing green could very possibly resurface and cause the same problem on a new green.

When I arrived on the green I saw that the problem was from a drain tile that exited into a water hazard. The exact situation that I had encountered in Nevada a few years earlier and that I wrote about in my last article.



The idea of water sitting in this drain tile, becoming anaerobic and producing BAD GUY GASSES that migrated up into our air pores where the roots of our plants had their oxygen supply made sense to the superintendent and we proceeded to take the necessary steps to correct the problem, which in this case was to cut off the part of the drain tile that was under water and to install a 4 way intersection [Vent] to make sure that the problem did not reoccur. Within two weeks this green did a complete turn around and became healthy.





Four years later and this green continues to be one of the healthiest greens on the course. Because of a superintendent who had faith in himself and knew there had to be an answer somewhere, the course saved over \$50,000 and had no loss of rounds due to construction.

**MILLIONS AND MILLIONS OF DOLLARS ARE SPENT EACH YEAR ON REBUILDING GREENS WHEN IT IS NOT NECESSARY. IT IS TIME WE STARTED USING SCIENCE TO GIVE US SOME ANSWERS.**

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