# Cultural and Biological Control of Thatch/Mat in Creeping Bentgrass Golf Greens. (C05gregg085741-Oral)

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## Abstract:

The new ultradwarf bentgrasses offer many agronomic and putting quality advantages. However, one characteristic of most of these cultivars is their relatively aggressive thatch/mat development. Golf course superintendents and turfgrass researchers are searching new regimens in combating excess thatch/mat accumulation. Common mechanical practices for eradicating thatch/mat include core cultivation, vertical mowing, and grooming. Biological controls including light frequent applications topdressing are most often accepted due to their low disruptive characteristics. Turfgrass researchers are looking to slow thatch/mat formation and increase the biological/microbial breakdown of excessive thatch/mat levels. Studies investigated the effectiveness of multiple management practices alone and in combination in reducing current thatch/mat accumulation in 'Penn A-1' (Agrostis stoloniferous L. var. palustris (Huds.)) bentgrass golf greens. Bentgrass treatments included vertical mowing, core aerification, grooming, and topdressing.

Effects of cultural and biological treatments included thatch/mat reduction by measuring loss on ignition, thatch/mat length, turf quality and color, water infiltration, surface hardness, and evaluating playability with ball roll distance.

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