



Managing bentgrass greens in India

The hot and semi-arid Deccan Plateau isn't an ideal climate for bentgrass, but a superintendent in Hyderabad is making it work.

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Boulder Hills Golf & Country Club in Hyderabad, India, is the first golf course in the country with creeping bentgrass (Penn A-4) putting surfaces. With its unique, boulder-strewn landscape, it has become the most talked-about golf course in the country.

When I came to the course as superintendent in November 2008, it was not “in the pink” of health. At first, I was surprised: Opened in April 2008, the par-72 7,229-yard layout by Harradine Golf was barely six months old. But because it was orphaned without a superintendent soon afterward, it was really not so surprising in retrospect.

Upon my arrival, I faced a number of immediate challenges. First, all the greens had heavy accumulations of algae. The putting surfaces, which not surprisingly also suffered from poor subsurface drainage, were a frightening sight. Water would puddle on the greens, even after only two to three minutes of irrigation. The crew had been accustomed to trying to resolve the problem with frequent daytime irrigation, and it was difficult for me to explain that deep and less frequent irrigation is the preferred way to grow healthier bentgrass.