

## Winter Turf Injury Update for Iowa Golf Courses – 12 Jan 2008

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This second winter posting is an update of the samples and ice removal plots we are evaluating on the practice green at Veenker Golf Course in Ames, IA. The mixed bentgrass/annual bluegrass green has good surface drainage with no standing water; however the ice storm that started on 1 December and the snow that followed between 11 and 14 December has left the green with an inch of ice covered by approximately 4 inches of snow. Some melting occurred between January 4 and 7 as temperatures reached a high of 39° F. From my previous report you can see that there are many factors that can lead to winter injury, but the question often becomes is there any thing during the winter that I should be doing to my specific greens to help them survive the winter (see the December update). The update from Veenker is our best effort to describe what is happening as the winter unfolds. It is only one green of the many we have in Iowa. If you have been sampling your greens through the winter please contact me so that we can share your experience with other members in the Iowa Golf Course Superintendents Association.

### The Good News

So far, all of the samples that we have taken on Veenker's practice green through 7 January 2008 are alive and doing fine. The green was sampled and ice and snow removed on some plots after 19 and 38 days of continuous cover. We will continue to sample and report every two weeks for the remainder of the winter.

### About the pictures

I have included several pictures of ice removal since many of you may be considering this as an option. At this point there is still nothing to suggest that anoxia (suffocation and harmful gaseous buildup) is occurring under the ice. Again, if anyone has sampled and experienced turf death under the ice please contact me. We were caught by the early December storm and did not get our winter cover study out before the ice came. John Newton helped us remove the snow and ice so that we could place the tarps for the remainder of the winter. We are evaluating permeable and impermeable covers with foam insulation and bubble wrap insulation. More on tarps at the end of the winter season. We started removing the snow with a small snow blower and then brought in the bigger equipment to give it a try. It worked very well under the frozen conditions but even with the larger equipment I would expect that we could clear only 2 greens in a day. There was no tarp on this green before the storm because it was going to be used for the tarp study. Checking some of the other greens at Veenker we noticed that most of the ice remained entirely above the Evergreen cover and the grass below looks to be alive at this time. John broomed the snow from number 14 green near the shop with the bobcat. No other ice or snow has been removed from the other 17 greens and practice areas.

Please contact Jeff Wendel [jeff@iowaturfgrass.org](mailto:jeff@iowaturfgrass.org) or Dave Minner [dminner@iastate.edu](mailto:dminner@iastate.edu) to keep us informed as you continue with your winter protection strategies. See you at the turf conference in week.