

Limit traffic on wet soil
May 10, 2015

Parts of Lincoln received over seven inches of rain this week. The weather forecast continues to look wet across much of Nebraska. Just a reminder to limit unnecessary vehicle and equipment traffic on wet soils. One quick decision to drive across an excessively wet area of turf can have season-long impacts on turfgrass quality. Damage can include soil compaction, which typically isn't visible until summer heat and drought stress, and wheel ruts that immediately impact turf health and recovery. Area damaged but wheel ruts can typically be fixed with sod, but compaction is much more difficult to quickly fix. Aeration and topdressing can help reduce compaction but aren't as effective as freeze-thaw cycles during the winter. Communicate the risk of compaction with your clients, employees, pro shop, and golfers. Limit cart traffic whenever soils become saturated. It only takes one poor driving decision to cause serious long-term damage to the turf.

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Figure 1. It's easy to quickly cause long-term damage to turf when the soils are wet. Avoid unnecessary maintenance traffic and golf cart traffic that can result in season-long damage.