

Limit maintenance and golf cart traffic on wet soil
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The weather forecast continues to look wet across much of southern and eastern Nebraska. This is a reminder to limit unnecessary vehicular 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 by 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 employees, proshop, 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.

Bill Kreuser, Extension Turfgrass Specialist, wkreuser2@unl.edu



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.