

New Methods for Speedy Divot Repair (Bluegrass)



CDGA Turfgrass Program

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Introduction

In golf, certain clubs strike the ball on a downward path. A divot is the resultant injury. Divots are a normal part of the game. Divot repair is used to maintain surface playability given the USGA's "Ball played as it lies." rule.

Why is Divot Repair Important?

1. Divot repair results in a level surface; allows normal ball lie and roll.
2. Unrepaired divots will take weeks, even months, to recover.
3. Divot repair of highly maintained surfaces is good golfer etiquette.

Traditional? Sand



Newer? Compost + Seed



+ Chewings Fescue Seed

Season effects? Divot recovery is similar if seed is added.

Spring (4 weeks)



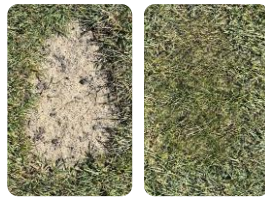
Compost plus Seed

Summer (5 weeks)



Sand plus Seed

Fall (3 weeks)



8-1-1 Mix plus Seed

How was the study conducted?

Location: 'HGT' Kentucky bluegrass tee, Bob Berry Sunshine Course

Divot Mixes: 1) Sand, 2) Compost, 3) 8-1-1 Mix

Seed: 'Leeward' Chewings Fescue

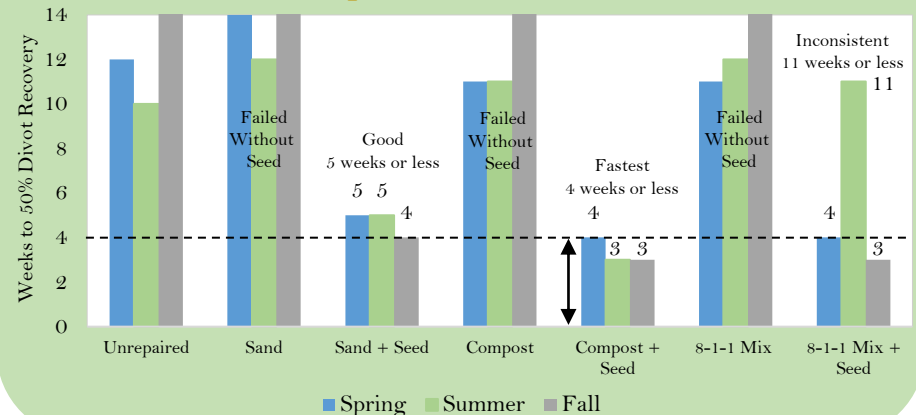
Divot Creation Dates: Spring (Apr 19), Summer (Jun 23), Fall (Sep 7)




















Duration: A total of 14 weeks allowed for recovery in each of 3 seasons

Additional benefits? Compost is rich in P and K nutrients.

Divot Mix	pH	OM Organic Matter (%)	P Phosphorous (ppm)	K Potassium (ppm)	Sand (%)	Silt (%)	Clay (%)
Sand	8.8	0.2	3	26	98	2	0
Compost	8.1	33.8	3048	441	-	-	-
8-1-1 Mix	8.1	0.5	21	177	98	2	0

Fastest? Compost + Seed = 4 weeks or less



Photos at 14 weeks	Unrepaired	Sand	Sand + Seed	Compost	Compost + Seed	8-1-1 Mix	8-1-1 Mix + Seed
Spring Divots Created Apr 19							
Summer Divots Created Jun 23							
Fall Divots Created Sep 7							

Recommendations – Consider Compost & Use Seed in Divot Mixes

- **Compost + Seed** was most consistent across seasons with divot recovery ≤ 1 month in all seasons.
- **8-1-1 Mix + Seed** was inconsistent in the summer season versus compost and sand.
- **Sand + Seed** performed better than expected in this study, but is not the only option.
- **Chewings Fescue Seed** is large and quick to germinate; It is a non-invasive alternative for bluegrass tees.
- **Chewings fescue** is a nurse grass that does not spread; Reduces risk of contamination into bluegrass roughs.