

Soil Technologies Corp.
Research and Development Department



SOILTECH
Teaming With Biology

Research Report

Title: Observed Changes in Organic Matter Content Following Thatch Relief¹ Applications on USGA Spec Greens

Location: Widgi Creek Golf Club
Bend, OR

Principal Investigators: Paul Rozek, GCS

Date: Summer 2025

Crop: Turfgrass **Cultivar:** Bentgrass, *Poa annua*

Abstract:

The purpose of this trial was to evaluate the effects of Thatch Relief, developed by Soil Technologies Corp, on turfgrass. Greens at Widgi Creek Golf Club received applications of Thatch Relief during the summer of 2025 and soil tests were taken before and after applications to evaluate changes in soil conditions. In 2025, no core aerifications were performed on greens at Widgi Creek Golf Club until after the conclusion of the trial. This evaluation was conducted under normal golf course management conditions and was not intended as a replicated, controlled research trial.

Methods:

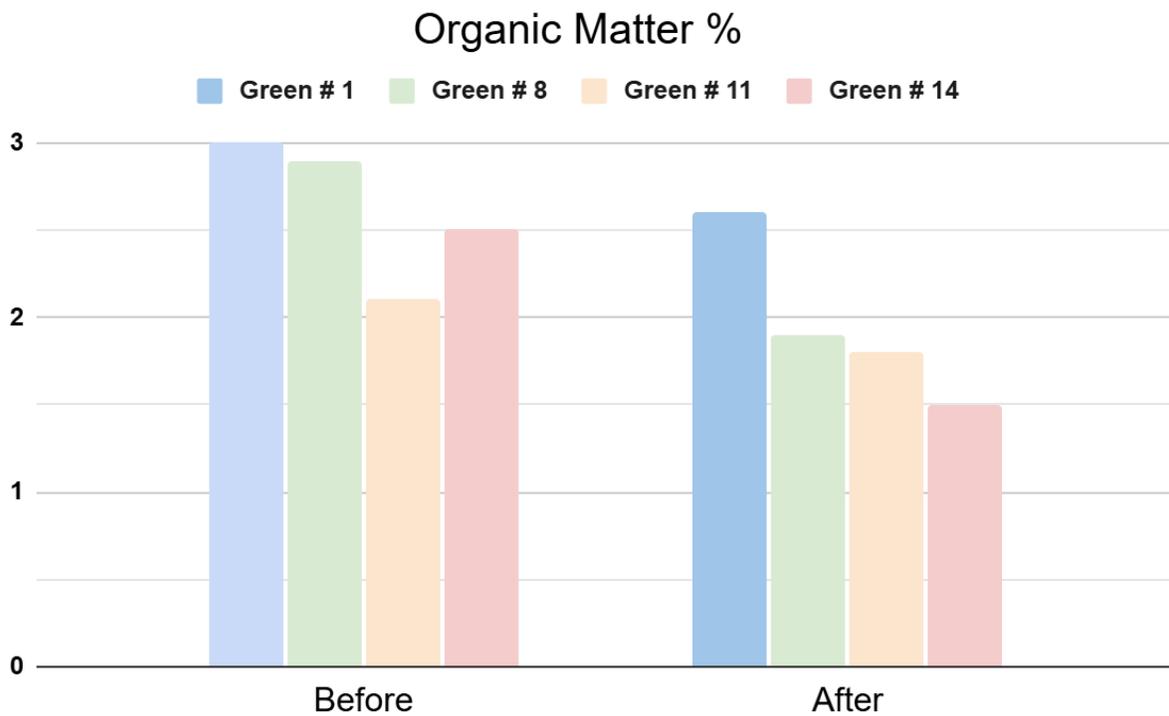
Soil samples extracted from turfgrass on four greens at Widgi Creek Club were tested and evaluated for changes in organic matter percentage. Greens received two applications of Thatch Relief, on June 30th and August 15th. No deep-tine or hollow-tine core aerification was performed prior to the October sampling date. Thatch Relief was applied at a rate of 3 fl oz/1,000 sq ft. in a tank mix of 1.8 gal/1,000 sq ft. To evaluate changes in soil conditions, soil samples from October 9th were compared with those taken on June 3rd.

¹Thatch Relief is a natural product formulated to support the decomposition of excess thatch in turfgrass developed and manufactured by Soil Technologies Corp. in Fairfield, Iowa US.

Results:

Soil tests conducted for this trial indicate a decrease in organic matter in the top 4" of soil.

Green	June 3 OM %	Oct 9 OM %	Change
#1	3.00	2.60	-0.40
#8	2.90	1.90	-1.00
#11	2.10	1.80	-0.30
#14	2.50	1.50	-1.00



Conclusions:

Results from this trial suggest that the use of Soil Technologies' Thatch Relief may contribute to reductions in organic matter in putting greens. Soil tests taken in this trial demonstrated decreased organic matter percentage in all four of the tested greens over a period of five months.