

MANUFACTURER OF OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT

Products for Turf & Lawncare, Rental, Construction, Nursery, Tree Care, Wood Processing & Farm Industries

Salsco's Monthly Product Training

WHY DO WE ROLL? PURPOSE & BENEFITS OF ROLLING

Sports Turf and Fairway Rolling have been upgraded for the 21st Century. New rollers, and new reasons to use them backed by research, mean more rolling of fairways and sports turf.

It's said that sooner or later, everything old is new again. This is true for the practice of rolling golf course fairways and sports turf. In the past, rollers had a place on fairways during construction, or maybe in the spring after the course experienced winter frost heaving and needed to be smoothed out before the first mowing. Today the benefits of modern rolling are adding up. **Here's why we roll...**



- Smooths the surface without changing the undulations.
- Dollar spot suppression.
- Less cutting time, which accompanies mower-wear reduction. Some courses have extended their fairway mower leases due to saving on mowing hours by rolling instead.
- Divots are gone: Less chance of injury with less chance of players tripping on divots.
- Sports field operators report that rolling before events improved the playing surface.
- Smoothing the surface of a soccer field enhances the speed of the ball. This increase means more ball control, a faster field, and better play. Click [here](#) for a demonstration.
- Reduced fungicide applications.
- Rolling more leads to greater water retention in the soil. With greater water retention we get greater bacteria, and with greater bacteria we get less disease.

ROLLER REDUX

Sal Rizzo, founder of [Salsco](#), which since 2012 has marketed the stand-alone [Tranz-Former](#) fairway roller (so named because it folds up/transforms to go over narrow bridges to the next fairway), says the idea was brought to him by a superintendent. "Matt Shaffer from Merion Golf Club (Ardmore, PA) asked if I had any interest in a new project. He was looking for a machine to roll fairways. I gave him a machine that was wide enough to roll the fairway 10 feet wide and maneuverable enough to roll greens in under three minutes each."

The benefits, says Rizzo, who exhibited the Tranz-Former at the San Diego Golf Industry Show, are well understood. “Rolling grass has been around forever. It eliminates dollar spot, smooths the surface, and improves the appearance of the fairway. Most superintendents will skip a mowing or two and roll instead. This can double the life of the fairway mowers. The savings, along with the savings of chemicals for dollar spot, will show a return. Fairway rolling is here to stay. It improves the golf course or sports turf, while saving money. It is difficult to think anyone would not plan to start the practice of rolling.

On the superintendent side, one convert to fairway rolling is Tim O’Neill, CGCS at the Country Club of Darien, CT. O’Neill was an early adapter of Salsco’s Tranz-Former. “Before I had the Tranz-Former, I had the notion that having something to smooth out my fairways would be good, but it had to be something wider than a regular greens roller.” As far as solid bottom-line results, O’Neill sees them. “Saving mower wear and tear allows his mechanic to do other things,” he says, “and in the summertime, we can skip the middle mowing of the week when things are hot.” The fairway roller was what he was looking for.

Let’s not forget Sports Turf Rolling! Salsco Sales Rep Mike Smith created a [video](#) about the benefits of rolling sports fields and increased ball speed on a soccer field. Mike used a Stimpmeter to measure the distance the soccer ball rolled. He said, “At first, the ball traveled 24’ 10”. After using the Salsco [Roll-in-Go](#), it traveled 33’, and after using our [Tranz-Former](#), it traveled 34’.” Mike continued, “Before using our rollers, the soccer ball took a turn to the right or left, and after using our rollers, the ball traveled perfectly straight.” Mike displayed an increase in ball speed, which means more ball control, a faster field, and better play. **“That’s how we roll!”**

Brigham Young University (BYU) in Provo, UT, has been rolling their sports turf with Salsco’s Tranz-Former for several years with great results. In a state where drought is common, BYU values the importance of sustainability and using the right equipment.

For Salsco’s complete line of Rollers, visit: www.salsco.com/products/golf-course-maintenance.html

TESTIMONIAL:

“We absolutely love our Salsco Tranz-Former. We’re rolling greens right now as we speak. It takes us about 2 hours to roll 19 greens. We’re thinking of buying another Tranz-Former soon because then we would be able to do the entire golf course in one day. This is one of the best purchases we’ve ever made. And, Sal has been great to us. Anytime we have a question or need anything he takes care of us right away.” Joe Lee, Superintendent. Back Creek Golf Club, DE

For more Greens Roller Testimonials, visit: www.salsco.com/testimonials/greens-rollers-2.html

Citations from: Hiscock, Ed. (April 15, 2016). Merrily they roll along...down the fairway. Golfdom Magazine, www.golfdom.com.