Can you identify this sports turf problem?

Problem: Marks on turf
Turfgrass Area: 18th green
Location: New Berlin, Wisconsin
Grass Variety: Bentgrass / Poa Mixture

Answer to John Mascaro’s Photo Quiz on Page 39
The marks on this green are tire marks as you might have suspected but what makes these tire marks unique is that the tires were on an airplane. The crash happened at about 11:30 am before a noon shotgun start, so luckily there were no golfers on the course. Since the plane’s engine had died, it came in very quietly until it bounced off the golf green and crashed into the big oak trees behind the green. There was an off duty EMT working at the club that day who attended to the pilot (only minor injuries) and kept onlookers at bay because fuel was leaking from the plane. Damage to the golf green was minimal and recovered in about 2 weeks however the oak tree died due to the fuel spill. The superintendent reported that the 18th hole had to be closed while the FAA investigated, so the outing played 17 holes that day. He also reported that removing the plane caused more damage to the course’s turf than the plane crash itself.

Photo submitted by Joel Peterson GCS, New Berlin Hills Golf Course, New Berlin, WI.

If you would like to submit a photograph for John Mascaro’s Photo Quiz please send it to John Mascaro, 1471 Capital Circle NW, Ste # 13, Tallahassee, FL 32303 or email to john@turf-tec.com. If your photograph is selected, you will receive full credit. All photos submitted will become property of SportsTurf magazine and the Sports Turf Managers Association.