



# **SportsTurf** 25<sup>th</sup> Conference & Exhibition MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

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## **Latest Trends in European Turfgrass**

**THE GOLF DELLA MONTECCHIA EXPERIENCE**



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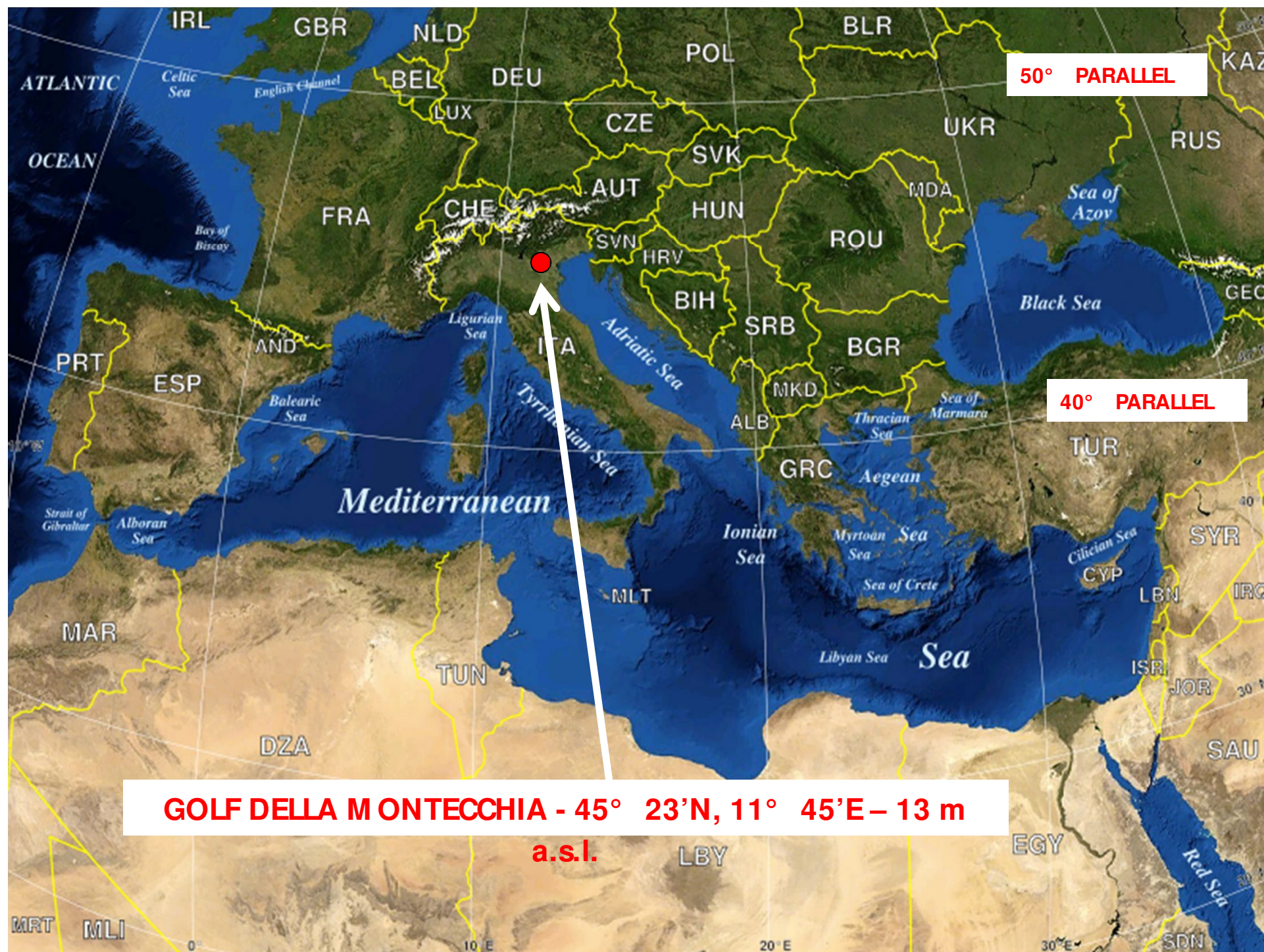
*Agronomist – Green Section of the Italian Golf Federation*





Golf della Montecchia is located between the city of Padua and the extensive spa area (Abano Terme) and the Parco dei Colli national park.









The golf course was established back in 1988 by a group of local businessmen.

Designed by English architect Tom Macauley, consists of 27 holes comprising the 3,387-yard yellow course, the 3,424-yard red course and the 3,485-yard white course.



The Club hosted PGA European Tour competitions (Challenge Tour in 2001, 2002, 2013 & Alps Tour in 2010, 2012) and several National Amateur Tournaments.





The original grasses at Golf della Montecchia fairways and tees were cool season infested year by year with annual bluegrass and common Bermuda.

AREAS	GRASS SPECIES
<b>Greens &amp; collars</b>	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> (Creeping bentgrass) cv. Pennncross (holes 1-18) <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> (Creeping bentgrass) cv. Pennlinks (holes 19-27)
<b>Tees</b>	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> (Creeping bentgrass) cv. Pennncross, <i>L. perenne</i> (Perennial rye), <i>F. rubra</i> (Red fescue) and <i>P. pratensis</i> (Kentucky bluegrass)
<b>Fairways</b>	<i>L. perenne</i> (Perennial rye), <i>F. rubra</i> (Red fescue) and <i>P. pratensis</i> (Kentucky bluegrass)
<b>Surrounds, semi rough and rough</b>	<i>L. perenne</i> (Perennial rye), <i>F. rubra</i> (Red fescue), <i>P. pratensis</i> (Kentucky bluegrass) and <i>F. arundinacea</i> (Tall fescue)





The drainage system is very efficient and this represents a strength in wintertime but a weakness in the summer months when the temperature often rises to 35 degrees C and there are regular periods of drought.



For that reason the Club had to use a considerable quantity of water and a large amount of pesticides in order to protect and repair stressed turf.



The maintenance program required every year  
autumn overseeding and the maintenance  
cost was unsustainable.





In 2003 a very long period of drought caused loss of turf both in Montecchia and in most of the Italian golf courses.



**2003**















**For that reason in 2004, the Golf della Montecchia started a study with Pisa University and the Italian Golf Federation Green Section in order to identify turfgrass species more suitable for their transitional climate.**



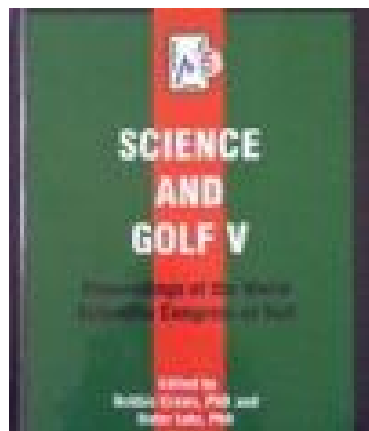


**Results indicated the great adaptability of warm season grasses, in particular Bermudagrass and Zoysiagrass: less water and nutrients use, no pesticides needed, increased turf quality included the four month dormancy period.**





The results of the trial were presented at the 5<sup>th</sup> World Scientific Congress of Golf at Phoenix, Arizona in March 2008 and at the 1<sup>st</sup> European Turfgrass Society Conference in Pisa, Italy a couple of months later.



On 2007 Bermudagrass Tifway 419 was sodded on the driving range teeing ground.



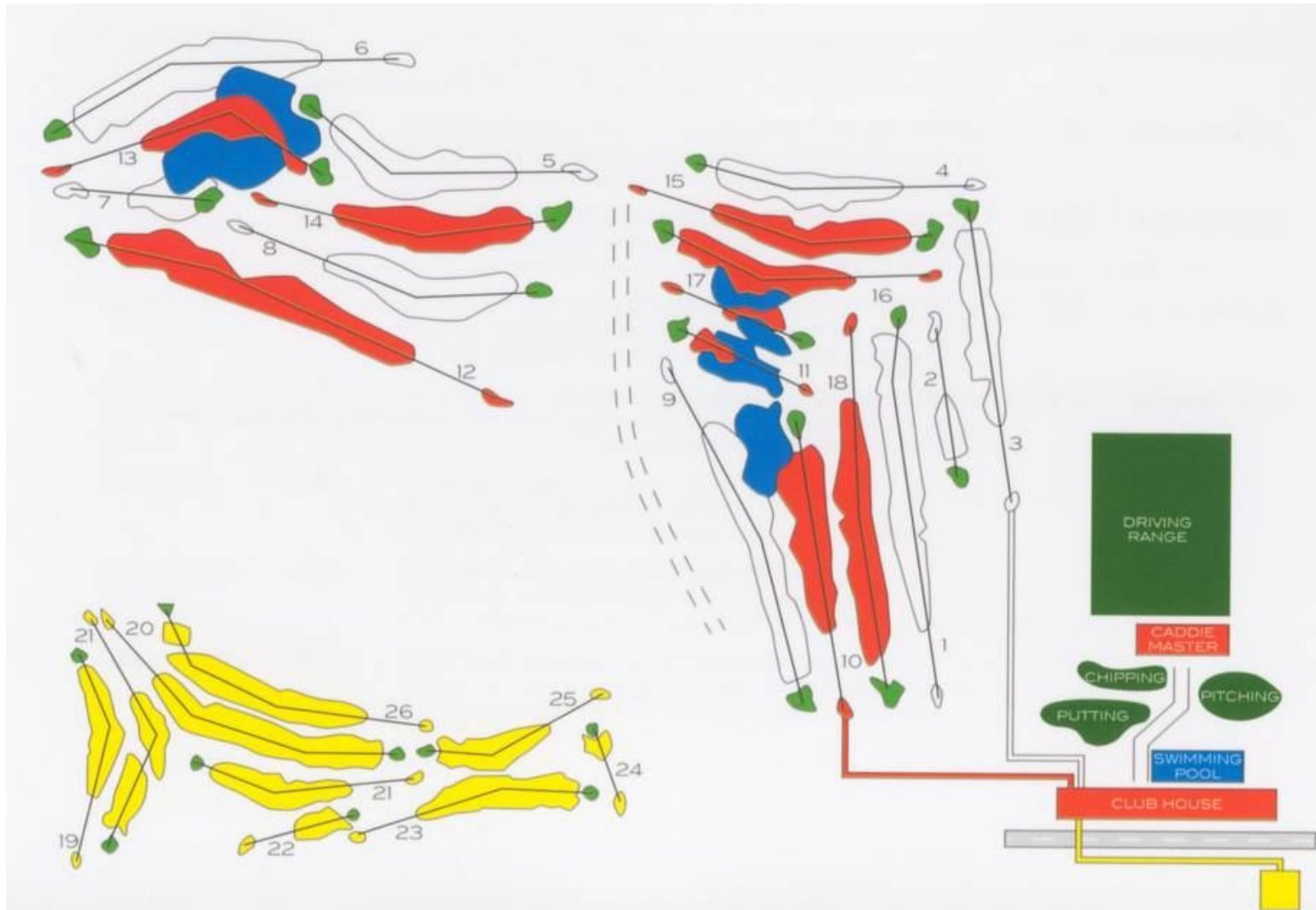


June, 14<sup>th</sup> 2010



In 2010, Golf della Montecchia take the decision to start a program to convert tees and fairways from cool-season grasses to Bermudagrass using Patriot, a cultivar specifically selected for the transition zone.

To limit disruption for the members, the work was scheduled over three years (2010 White course, 2011 Red course and 2012 Yellow course)





An innovative technique (small plants instead of stolons) was used to re-open the course in six weeks.









June, 21<sup>st</sup> 2010



June, 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010





June, 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010



June, 25<sup>th</sup> 2010





July, 7<sup>th</sup> 2010



July, 13<sup>th</sup> 2010





July, 20<sup>th</sup> 2010



July, 29<sup>th</sup> 2010





**August, 7<sup>th</sup> 2010**



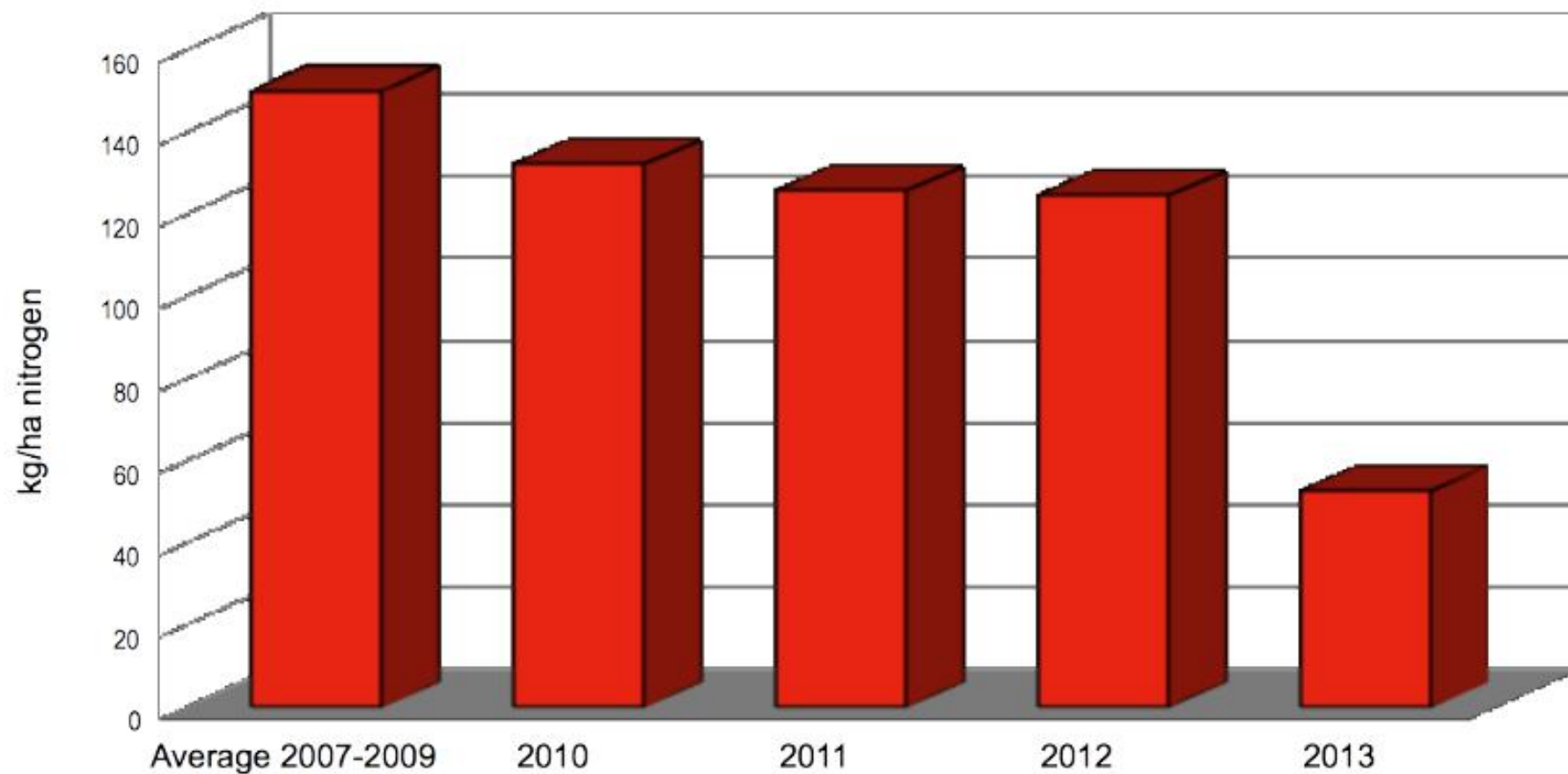
Actual maintenance data shows significant differences when compared to that from previous years: dramatic reductions in terms of water consumption **(70% less)** and fertiliser inputs **(80% less)**.  
**No pesticides** used in 2013.





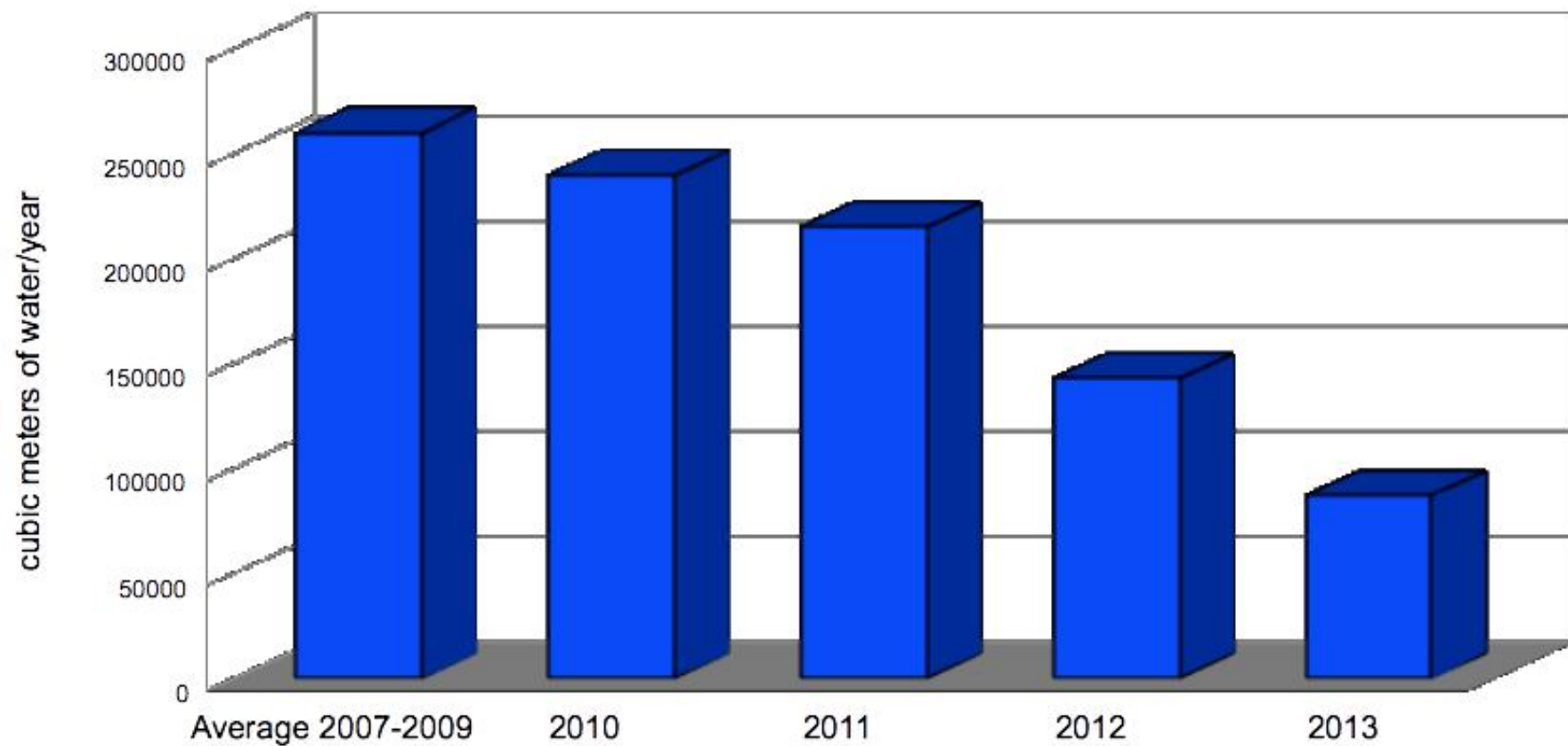
# Total nitrogen applied on tees and fairways

Golf della Montecchia



# Total water consumption

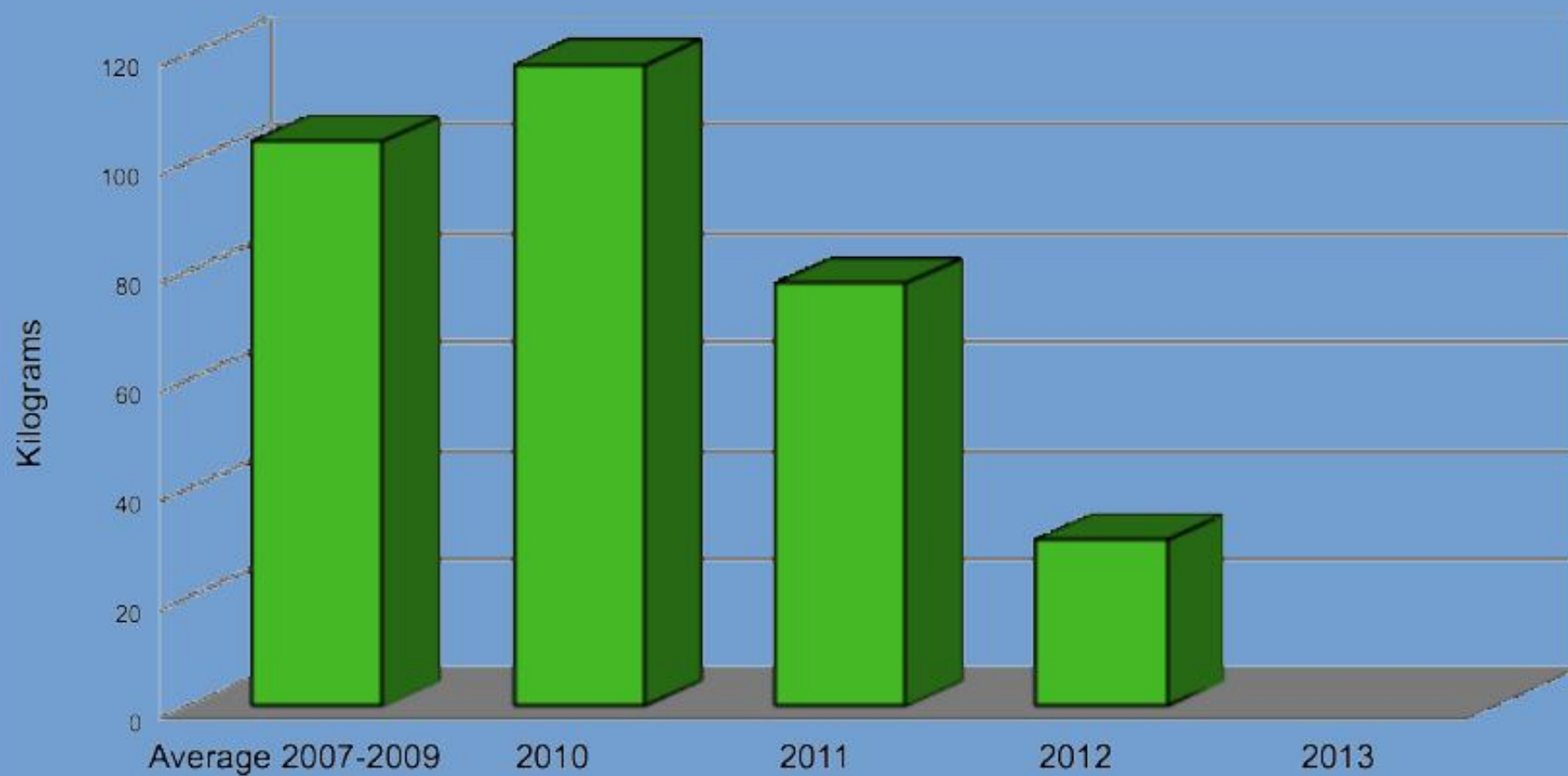
## Golf della Montecchia





# Pesticides used on fairways and tees

Golf della Montecchia



Thanks to our conversion to  
Bermudagrass plus a number of  
additional measures aimed at  
enhancing its sustainable  
performance, Golf della  
Montecchia was awarded the  
**G.E.O.** Environmental  
Certification in May 2013  
(Golf Environment Organisation)







**Golf della Montecchia is currently the most northerly course in Europe to have Bermudagrass on its fairways and tees and has become a model in the Mediterranean region for clubs with similar climatic conditions.**