**TURF TWISTERS**

**BERMUDAGRASS OR BENTGRASS**

**QUESTION:** We have Tifgreen bermuda greens and have been losing bermuda each spring. Can we convert to bent without rebuilding? We are about 700 feet altitude in the Piedmont area. (North Carolina)

**ANSWER:** Yes, if your greens were constructed properly originally. If not, changing grass alone may create a problem worse than your present one. If you have lost bermuda each spring, it would not be advisable to convert to bent without having a competent person familiar with bent growth habits check your greens.

**BUMPY POA ANNUA**

**QUESTION:** Our greens are solid *Poa annua* and every spring they are very bumpy. Why? (New York)

**ANSWER:** *Poa annua* is not a single pure strain. For example, there are a number of Kentucky bluegrass varieties such as Merion, Delta, Park, Windsor, Newport, etc. Each has a different growth habit, and so it is with *Poa annua*. Any one green may have thousands of separate types — some that will seed profusely, some that will not; some that are wide-bladed, some that are very narrow-bladed; some that are tall growing, some that resemble the short blade of Velvet bentgrass. With this hodgepodge of varieties, is there any wonder that growth is uneven — especially in spring when all *Poa annua* plants make their strongest growth?

**TESTING: ONE; TWO; THREE**

**QUESTION:** How often should soil tests be taken and what part of the course should they cover? Also, is there any certain time of year to take the tests? (Colorado)

**ANSWER:** Unless you have a specific problem or reason to test soil at a given time, soil tests every 3 or 4 years should be sufficient to keep tabs on nutritional and pH levels. Generally, the sampling of 4 or 5 representative greens and a similar number of fairways and tees will be sufficient to establish a "pattern" for you. The late fall, winter or spring months are the most popular for sampling. Once you establish a time, future samples should be taken during the same general period.