

# TURF TWISTERS

**Question:** What is your recommendation for a mowing height on bermudagrass fairways?

**Answer:** We believe that bermudagrass should be cut short. One-half to three-fourths inch is desirable.

There are circumstances which might cause this recommendation to be changed. Rough ground underlying fairway turf may cause scalping. Thus the mower may have to be raised to get away from this condition.

It is also true that close mowing and frequent mowing go together. If you find it impossible to mow as much as three times a week, then it may be necessary to mow a little higher. You may also have to alter irrigation and fertilization practices so that not too great a proportion of the turf's leaf surface is removed at one time.

**Question:** Our Conference Planning Committee would like to have an agronomist from the USGA Green Section discuss putting green maintenance. Do you also have a Fairway Section from which we could get a man to talk about fairway maintenance?

**Answer:** Our Green Section agronomists will be capable of discussing both subjects. The Green Section of the United States Golf Association is concerned with the entire golf course. The name comes from the fact that the entire playing area of the golf course is "the green." According to Definition 34 in THE RULES OF GOLF, "through the green" is the whole area of the course except: a. Teeing ground and putting green of the hole being played; b. All hazards on the course.

**Question:** We have not been able to control sod webworms with chlordane. It was applied at the rate of 5 pounds per acre and watered in. Are the webworms becoming resistant?

**Answer:** It is possible that the sod webworms are becoming resistant to chlordane. However, it is much more likely that they escaped its effect because of their habits and your method of application.

Webworms live in tunnels constructed of a silk-like material and it is almost impossible to get insecticide materials in contact with the worm while he is in his burrow. He comes up at night, however, and feeds on the surface of the turf. We have found that worms can be controlled quite effectively by a light application of insecticide in late afternoon, provided the material is left on the foliage overnight. Because of his feeding habits, he comes in contact with the insecticide and if he feeds, he may ingest some of it.

When insecticides are used in this way, very light rates are effective. One pound per acre of chlordane, or like amounts of toxaphene, dieldrin, malathion, aldrin, heptachlor, or other similar material is sufficient.