

# TURF TWISTERS

## FAIRWAY WEEDS

**Question:** Our fairways are infested with crabgrass and goosegrass. Disodium methyl arsonate has been recommended as a spray for controlling these grasses. Is this material effective? At what rates? Is it economically feasible to use this procedure? (NEW MEXICO)

**Answer:** Disodium methyl arsonate is an excellent material to use on these weeds. Many superintendents add about 1/2 pound of 2, 4-D per acre to the spray solution when there is much goosegrass in the turf. It appears to increase the effectiveness of the DSMA. Usual rate of application on bluegrass turf is about 4 pounds per acre. On bermudagrass turf, as much as six pounds per acre may be used without appreciable injury. Use of disodium methyl arsonate is actually a very low cost method of weed control. Since the discovery that DSMA will control johnsongrass in cotton fields, the volume of sales has increased greatly, and the price of the material has been drastically reduced.

## DRAINAGE

**Question:** A putting green at my club is located on a hillside. The surface of the green slopes gradually; about 18 inches from back to front. Because the cup stands full of water for most of the day following night time irrigation, we have been told that the green is poorly drained. How can this be? (TEXAS)

**Answer:** The green probably has good surface drainage. The slopes you describe should be adequate to remove surface water provided there are no low spots.

It is likely that the soil within the green is tight or that layers exist and that water is transmitted downward rather slowly. Therefore you have poor "internal" drainage and water fails to vacate the larger voids in the soil. Good water percolation characteristics within the soil may sometimes overcome the effects of poor surface drainage, but good surface drainage can do little to alleviate the effects of layered or compacted soil.