

TURF TWISTERS

PRE-EMERGENCE HERBICIDES

Question: We have used a pre-emergence herbicide on our greens and the turf is suffering. Did we do something wrong? How do we treat the turf? (ILLINOIS and TEXAS)

Answer: Many of the pre-emergence herbicides have been used experimentally with very good results. However, you may have noticed that good investigators nearly always qualify their reports by saying something like "at this location and under the conditions which prevailed when these tests were conducted, these were the results."

It is a good idea to check new products on *your* turf, using *your* equipment, and *your* methods. A nursery area or a practice green is a good spot for trying new products.

There probably is little you can do now. Don't take any drastic measures. Water as carefully as possible to prevent wilting. Distribute traffic as much as possible. Give the grass plants time to recover from the shock. Before next season, do some more experimenting to determine whether there is a safe rate and method of application for your turf.

UNIFORM IRRIGATION

Question: Our irrigation system is not doing a good job. Around each riser we have a wet area. Then there is a dry circle. Out near the perimeter of the sprinkler pattern there is another wet ring. Do we have the wrong kind of sprinklers? (ARIZONA)

Answer: It would appear that the nozzle of your sprinkler is not breaking up the stream effectively. Your water pressure may have dropped since this size sprinkler was installed. Experiment with slightly smaller nozzles. Set out coffee cans about every 5 feet from the sprinkler to the edge of the pattern. The amount of water collected in each can will give you an indication of the degree of uniformity you are achieving.

When you use smaller nozzles, you may reduce the diameter of your pattern. Be sure you are still getting sufficient overlapping of the individual sprinkler coverages to insure the application of adequate moisture over the whole area.