

TURF TWISTERS

NIGHT MOWING

Question: Is night mowing healthier for the grass plant? (PENNSYLVANIA)

Answer: In hot summer months, it appears likely that mowing during the day may cause some damage. Damage to tissues normally results in increased respiration rates. It is believed that night mowing may help to alleviate these effects. However, where disease is a problem and dew is heavy, bruising the grass and then allowing it to stay wet all night may contribute to fungus activity.

With our present knowledge, an unqualified answer is not possible.

DALLISGRASS

Question: We are having trouble at our club with so-called dallisgrass. Can you give us information as to how to eradicate it? (ARKANSAS)

Answer: Dallisgrass can be controlled by spraying with 8 pounds per acre of disodium methyl arsonate. A second treatment three weeks later may be necessary to control a few plants which recover.

Dissolve the chemical in water so that you spray 8 pounds of DSMA and 80 gallons of water per acre. Bermudagrass will be discolored but it will recover promptly. Recovery is usually better if the soil is moist at the time of treatment.

SUMMER WEED CONTROL

Question: Our club is using a weed control material on greens that consists of small percentages of disodium methyl arsonate, trifluralin, and 2,4-D. This is primarily for crabgrass control. What is your opinion of this product? (KANSAS)

Answer: Generally, we do not recommend any kind of herbicide for use on bent greens in the summer months. The amounts of material you have applied will not likely do any harm. On the other hand these amounts are not likely to kill crabgrass. The margin between effectiveness and safety is very slight when one attempts to control crabgrass during its season of most vigorous growth in bentgrass turf during its season of least vigorous growth.