

# TURF TWISTERS

## AERIFYING NOT NECESSARY

**Question:** Most superintendents in this area aerify both spring and fall. Is this absolutely necessary? Our greens take water well, and the only complaint is that they are sometimes firm the second day after watering. We topdress twice a year and we use a spiking machine frequently. (COLORADO)

**Answer:** A lot of good golf greens were kept for a lot of years before the aerifier was invented. If your greens take water well and you have no noticeable compaction, then it seems that you might very well skip some of the times when you would normally aerify. The spiking machine will do a good job of keeping the surface open and your top-dressing operations will help.

If you've not seen the April issue of the USGA GOLF JOURNAL, you might look at the article on page 13. It is entitled "Firm Greens: Best for You and The Course."

## CUP LOCATIONS

**Question:** Does the USGA have a ruling as to cup locations and how close a cup may be placed to the edge of a putting green? (WASHINGTON)

**Answer:** While many factors can affect cup location, the use of good judgment should be the first consideration. Ensure fair conditions, not tricky locations. For an area at least two or three feet in radius around the cup, the putting surface should be in good condition without any steep slopes or, if possible, any changes in the degree of slope. In other words, the green in the holing-out area should be as nearly level as possible and of uniform grade, but it does not have to be exactly level.

Next, the USGA tries to start, if possible, at least five paces away from the edge of the putting green. However, other factors must also be considered; bunker locations, the holding quality of the green, length of the shot to the green, design of the hole, etc. In no case should cups be located in tricky places or on sharp slopes where a ball can gather speed.