

TURF TWISTERS

PINK GROUND PEARL

Question: We have been informed we have Pink Ground Pearl. Do you have a solution? (NORTH CAROLINA)

Answer: You have an unusual problem. Not much is known about Ground Pearl and even less about Pink Ground Pearl (*Margorodes Meredionalis*). The life cycle is still not known well enough for a firm eradication. We have observed it in what we call the crawler stage and it seems this would be the logical stage for control. The best solution we have to suggest is a contact insecticide applied during the crawler stage late in the afternoon and drenched in the next day.

MERION TEES

Question: What are your suggestions for maintaining Merion tees? (CONN.)

Answer: A good maintenance program should include the following:

1. Mow at a minimum of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.
2. Catch clippings.
3. Do not overwater.
4. Aerate frequently, topdress as necessary and thatch at least twice a year.
5. Maintain the pH at 6.5 to 7.0.
6. Apply approximately 5 lbs. nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. per year.
7. Move tee markers frequently (at least once a day).

WATERING BERMUDAGRASS

Question: We have just installed a new automatic water system on our bermudagrass fairways and have religiously applied 1-acre inch of water per week. During July and August our bermuda turned yellow and we had a heavy infestation of silver and common crabgrass. Could water management have caused our problems? (VA.)

Answer: More than likely it did. Overuse of water kept the soil saturated, excluding oxygen from your heavy clay soils, and at the same time encouraged crabgrass at the expense of bermuda growth. Watering should be done on an "as needed" basis and the soil allowed to dry out between waterings. Too much water is just as bad as, or worse than, not enough.