

TURF TWISTERS

A BUMPY PUTT

Question: Why is it that our greens are bumpier in the spring, especially during cold, wet springs? (Mass.)

Answer: Most greens contain a mixture of *Poa annua* and bentgrass. During cold weather the *Poa* grows luxuriantly but the bentgrass does not: it lies semi-dormant until the soil warms, hence this unevenness. The bumpiness is further caused by the stemmy and bristly growth of *Poa annua* seedheads which flourish abundantly in spring.

AND SPOTTY TIFGREEN

Question: Our club used a pre-emergence herbicide on our Tifgreen greens in early March. After growth began, we found some small bare spots in greens. The bermuda covered over these spots, but in June we vertically mowed the greens and they thinned out severely. What treatment do you advise? (Oklahoma)

Answer: These greens were examined and it was found that the bermuda growing over the bare spots failed to penetrate the soil with new roots. We recommend aerifying, heavy top-dressing and heavier watering than usual. These treatments are not guaranteed to alleviate your troubles completely. You may have to wait until the herbicide has dissipated before normal growth may be expected. In the meantime, do not vertically mow or brush the greens. Depend upon repeated top-dressing to control grain and stemminess.

A GLUEY TANK

Question: Under "Color Me Green?" Turftwister last November, you suggested adding an ounce of magnesium sulfate per 1000 square feet when spraying fungicides, herbicides or fertilizers to greens. Our 25 years of experience indicates that this causes a precipitate to form in the presence of certain fertilizers. A solid or gluey-like substance collects in the bottom of the tank. Now what do you say? (Ohio)

Answer: Would you believe we're both right? The same phenomenon (i.e., precipitation in the spray tank) occurs in other sections of the country as well. In California, for example, the cause has been traced to the presence of certain soluble salts in the domestic water supply. But it does not occur everywhere; only in those areas or under those conditions where the particular salts causing precipitation are present. Therefore, most superintendents could use the idea.