

# TURF TWISTERS

## NITROGEN VERSUS HAIR

**Question:** I was recently shown a list of the approximate nutrient content of waste materials and note that hair is from 8-16% nitrogen. Can this be used as fertilizer? (New Jersey)

**Answer:** Hair is used in making nitrogenous tankage and wet base goods. However, it is too slowly available to be suitable as a fertilizer. Hair may also be used in a compost to good advantage.

## FERTIGATION VERSUS DRY FERTILIZER

**Question:** What are some of the pros and cons of applying fertilizers through the irrigation system? (California)

**Answer:** We have seen this practice on a number of golf courses over the years. Yet one of the main problems with this technique lies in the fact that it is only as effective as the irrigation system, and most golf course irrigation systems are incapable of uniform coverage. Irrigation patterns are distorted by the wind, water pressure differences, sprinkler head efficiency, fixed objects such as trees or shrubs, etc.

Other problems that have been encountered in the past include terrain unevenness and runoff, different fertilizer requirements for different areas (tees, greens, fairways, roughs, etc.), and corrosion of metal parts in the irrigation system. Finally, there are some who believe that constant "force feeding" of turfgrasses does not always produce the best golfing turf.

Fertigation has been successful in many areas of agriculture. On golf courses, it has yet to prove its long range advantages over dry fertilizer application.

## RYEGRASS VERSUS THE CIVIL WAR

**Question:** By the end of this season, our practice tee looked as if the Civil War was fought over it. Is there any way to grow grass on a medium to small size practice tee? We have no room for expansion. (Nevada)

**Answer:** Grass won't grow on a busy street. However, there may be a way to alleviate the problem. Reasonable success has been achieved by overseeding tees every month of the growing season with annual ryegrass. About 20 pounds per 1000 square feet is suggested. It is inexpensive, quick to germinate and at least gives some grass cover until that next divot is taken.