

TURF TWISTERS

SUN (DESICCATION)

Question: Desiccation is a serious winter problem for us. What causes it, and is there any way we can safeguard our greens? (New Hampshire)

Answer: There are many contributory factors relative to desiccation (drying up) of putting green grasses. Factors such as overstimulation of turf going into the winter, inadequate soil moisture going into the winter, lack of snow cover, drying winds, greens situated in open or unusually high areas, and lack of protection from trees or wind breaks. One of the best safeguards is to insure adequate soil moisture throughout the winter season—even if it means irrigation in January. Top-dressing each green that is subject to desiccation just before cold weather sets in will also prove effective.

SAND (DEPTH)

Question: How deep should sand be in bunkers? (Arizona)

Answer: Sand depth must be adequate for the deepest anticipated "explosion shot." Usually four to six inches of sand will handle the situation.

SEASON (DISEASE)

Question: Is it important or necessary to apply fungicides in late winter or early spring when turf is initiating reduced growth? (Iowa)

Answer: We have observed that disease caused from the activity of various types of *Fusarium* can be extremely damaging at this time of the year. It is entirely possible that an application of a fungicide for specific control of *Fusarium* can be one of the most important applications throughout the entire growing season. By all means apply a suitable fungicide at this time.