

TURF TWISTERS

SLOW DOWN

Question: Is there a chemical available that can retard the growth of grass, thus limiting the number of mowings required to maintain ditch banks, tree bases and other hard to mow areas? (New Jersey)

Answer: Yes, Maleic hydrazide when applied in the early spring (just after green-up) when the grass is approximately 3 inches tall will suppress growth. The maleic hydrazide should be applied at the 8-pound rate. The area is mowed 7 days after treatment and should not require mowing for two or three months.

SPEED UP

Question: I applied an arsenical for *Poa annua* control last spring and recieved some injury to my bentgrass. What is the best way to negate the effect of the arsenical? (Michigan)

Answer: An arsenical toxicity is best overcome by an application of phosphorus. This can be applied in the form of an inorganic phosphorus at the rate of one pound per 1,000 square feet or as a liquid spray. A 10-20-10 liquid fertilizer applied at 2 gallons per acre in 50 gallons of water has worked well for superintendents in the Midwest.

We have found that arsenic toxicity usually occurs in low, poorly drained areas. Drainage in these areas should be improved before any arsenical is applied. Slit trenching is an ideal means of improving drainage in these low spots.

STAY EVEN

Question: I am managing a new course which is to be opened in July. We expect a very heavy play and our greens will average a little over 7,000 square feet in size. Do you feel a two-cup system would be of benefit to us? (Virginia)

Answer: The question is a controversial one in that some superintendents say the two-hole system encourages more traffic on the green because of the necessity to walk across the green to place the flag in the other cup and then return to pick up clubs or cart. On the other hand, many superintendents feel that this system more evenly distributes traffic over a larger area; therefore, less wear is encountered in any one day.

The one thing we know for sure is that frequent cup changes (usually daily) with a planned system of rotation around the green surface with occasional special placement for special conditions such as wet weather, injured turf, etc., means better greens as well as better putting surfaces for the golfer.

You must use your own judgement as to whether or not the two-cup system would be beneficial under your conditions because there are certainly no hard and fast rules which apply in all situations.