

TURF TWISTERS

MICROSCOPES FOR NEMATODES

QUESTION: Can I determine when my greens need treating with a nematicide by counting the number of nematodes in a given area—say a quart of soil? (Tennessee)

ANSWER: You could if you used a microscope and you could differentiate between parasitic and non-parasitic nematodes in the total population. Nematology, however, is a rather complex study and only trained individuals should evaluate your nematode problem by examining samples under the microscope.

PRECAUTION FOR CHEMICALS

QUESTION: The controversy over DDT raises in my mind questions as to possible health hazards from golf course chemicals such as thiram, malathion, chlordane and sodium arsenite. What say you? (Minnesota)

ANSWER: Any material (even aspirin), in quantity, is most certainly dangerous. However, it is unlikely that golfers would contact them in sufficient quantity to do harm. Even employees who actually handle the materials run a negligible risk with proper safety precautions. A possible exception to this might be thiram, to which certain individuals are super-sensitive. Such individuals are rather rare, and may come in contact with this chemical when handling numerous household goods because thiram is widely used as a rubber preservative.

With the exercise of normal precaution, these chemicals are not only reasonably safe, but essential to the upkeep of the course.

TRIPLEX PUTTING GREEN MOWERS

QUESTION: What does the Green Section think of the new triplex putting green mowers? (New Jersey)

ANSWER: We will have a nation-wide report in the May, 1970, issue of the **Green Section Record**.

SYNTHETIC SAND FOR BUNKERS

QUESTION: We have heard a lot about using "synthetic sand" in bunkers. I've even seen some blue, red and maroon-colored bunkers on TV. What can you tell us about it and is it legal? (Arizona)

ANSWER: There's nothing in the rule book that says bunker sand must be white. We just happen to think most people prefer it that way. But where colored synthetic sand has been used, superintendents report fewer weeds and even bermuda is slow to grow into it. Professional golfers report it "plays well." However, it costs from two to three times as much as top quality bunker sand and that's hard to sell.