

TURF TWISTERS

WEEDS & SPRING

Question: Should broadleaved weeds be controlled during the spring or the fall? (Maine)

Answer: Because all chemicals weaken or temporarily injure the turf, you should consider in which season your grasses are most likely to suffer injury and make your herbicide application accordingly. If you have a history of winter injury in your area, it would be best to apply the herbicide in the spring. If you have experienced primarily summer injury in your area it would be best to delay broadleaved weed control until the fall.

ICE & WINTER

Question: During the first week of March we had a total coverage of three feet of snow on greens. The first six to eight inches above the surface of the green is snow, which is covered by an inch layer of ice, which in turn is covered by another two feet or so of snow. Should we remove the covering totally or in part? (Massachusetts)

Answer: Presently you are not in any danger. As long as the ice layer is not directly on the surface of the green I don't foresee any problems. If the snow is still present toward the end of the month you might remove all but four inches. If an ice layer does form on the surface of the green, it would be best to crack or punch holes in the ice layer. This would allow air circulation, yet still afford the green protection against desiccation. An application of a dark material, such as top-dressing or a natural organic fertilizer, will also help in ice removal. If the green is predominately *Poa annua*, any ice sheet should be removed after 25 days.