

TURF TWISTERS

DEAD SPOTS

Question: Has the Spring Dead Spot problem been solved? (North Carolina)

Answer: No, it has not, but research continues to show some progress. Recent information, not released, shows Spring Bak, Fore and Dieldrin still give the most promise for control.

DEAD POTS

Question: We have a readily available source of sawdust. Is sawdust a good source of organic matter for use in top-dressing and soil mixture? (Vermont)

Answer: This question is best answered by research conducted at the University of Massachusetts by D.V. Waddington, W.C. Lincoln, Jr., and J. Troll. It is best to avoid the use of fresh sawdust in turfgrass seedbeds. Nitrogen deficiencies often occur when undecomposed sawdust is attacked by micro-organisms. Furthermore, some wood materials have a toxic effect on seedling turf. Before using the sawdust, it should be well composted then "seed tested" in a pot.

DEAD SYSTEM

Question: What is the metric system and will we in the United States ever adopt it? (Oregon)

Answer: The metric system is far less complex than our present avoirdupois weight and distance measurements. The fundamental unit is the meter (equal to 3.28 feet) from which the units of mass (grams) and capacity (liters) are easily derived. Researchers in the United States are increasingly using the metric system in reporting their work. However, the cost of converting to the system would be tremendous and we know of no U.S. plans to do so. In all probability, the transition will be slow with Canadian and U.S. citizens knowing and using both systems for many years.