

TURF TWISTERS

A BREAKTHROUGH

Question: Dutch Elm disease has reached Colorado and is ravaging our American Elms. Has any progress been made in its control? (Colorado)

Answer: The U.S. Forest Service believes a breakthrough may be in the making. Virgin female beetles produce a scent highly attractive to flying male and female elm bark beetles. If this scent can be produced synthetically, control of the destructive beetles may be possible.

Over the past 13 years, the Canadian Government has developed an elm believed to be resistant to Dutch Elm disease. It is known as the Quebec Elm and should be available commercially within a year. In the meantime, pruning and elimination (burning, burying or debarking) of all dead or dying elm wood is still the only effective control measure available to us. It's a tough problem.

IN IRRIGATION

Question: We are planning to install an automatic irrigation system this spring. What head spacing do you recommend? (Idaho)

Answer: Although there are a number of critical factors in automatic irrigation, head spacing is certainly one of them! We find that systems with 65-foot spacing consistently do the best job of uniform irrigation. Anything over 70 feet usually means some areas are going to be too wet and others too dry—regardless of the type of head, nozzle or pressure used. The wider the spacing (over 70 feet), the more irrigation problems one can expect.

FOR GOOD TURF MANAGEMENT

Question: We understand the Green Section maintains a list of recommended golf course architects. Would you please send us a current copy? (Washington, D.C.)

Answer: Although the United States Golf Association as a matter of policy will not recommend any particular architect to a prospective golf course builder, as a service it does maintain a list of all golf course architects known to the association in its New York City headquarters. The list is available upon request, but the USGA makes no claim that it is a complete list of everyone engaged in designing golf courses. The USGA does recommend, however, the booklet "Building Golf Holes for Good Turf Management," which was edited by the Green Section Staff.