

TURF TWISTERS

TIME TO SHOOT

Question: When is the best time to aerate greens without encouraging *Poa annua* invasion? (Ohio)

Answer: Green aerification should take place only when your bentgrass is actively growing and will compete against any *Poa annua* invasion. Late spring and summer is preferred to early spring or fall.

THE FOWL COOT

Statement: Your readers may be interested in knowing of our success in ridding our golf course of coots. Over the years, we have tried everything imaginable—including a “coot drive cage” at the end of a fairway—it didn’t work. Recently, a falconer hobbieist brought his trained hawk and one falcon. It wasn’t long after his predators were released that the coots got the message. The entire flock left the area and we’ve seen only a few stragglers since. (California)

Comment: It’s a fowl story, but some hobbies pay!

WITH THE STORED LOOT

Question: What is the average shelf life of the various types of chemical pesticides? Are there any tests I can perform to check their condition? (Rhode Island)

Answer: With proper storage, pesticides can generally last one to two years. They should be stored dry and warm, not frozen. Here are some tests you can perform to determine if the chemicals have deteriorated.

- A) Emulsifiable Concentrates — When milky coloration does not occur by adding water, when sludge is present, and when any of the components separate, the product has deteriorated.
- B) Oil Sprays — When milky coloration does not occur by adding water.
- C) Wettable Powders — When excessive lumping occurs and the product will not suspend in water.
- D) Dusts — Excessive lumping.
- E) Granulars — Excessive lumping.
- F) Aerosols — These are generally effective until the dispenser no longer sprays.