

TURF TWISTERS

NEITHER RAIN

Question: After prolonged rains my members complain that conditions for play are inferior. Is this true at most courses? (N.Y.)

Answer: Except where exceptionally good drainage exists, courses play badly after prolonged rains. Saturated soils become spongy, grasses become limp, sparse and shallow rooted and so the turf isn't as firm nor is the footing as good as it is when dry. It is indeed a different playing surface. The average player doesn't adjust well to soft conditions and so his game suffers—ALONG WITH THE COURSE.

NOR FROST

Question: On early spring mornings I have frost on my greens. My members want to play. What is the best way to remove the frost so the course can be opened? (N.Y.)

Answer: There are only two safe ways of removing frost from greens: 1) a two- to three-minute syringe cycle by the sprinkler system around greens, or 2) wait for the sun and warmer temperature to melt the frost. Some new chemicals are now under investigation, however, but in our judgement, all the facts are not in.

SHALL STAY THESE COURIERS

Question: Although we want to support the USGA and the Green Section, we also have one of the best golf course superintendents in the country. Our course is always in great condition. How could the Green Section Turfgrass Service (including direct visits to our course) possibly be of benefit to us? (Virginia and California)

Answer: Not only do you have a top-notch superintendent, but there is also available a number of other sources of "outside" information. We feel this is all to the good of golf and your club. No one has a monopoly on all knowledge, all information and all ideas. The Green Section Service, in addition to annually supporting turfgrass research projects at universities throughout the country, can be of direct benefit to any club if its experience and ideas are properly used. Staff members make over 1,200 golf course visits nationwide each year! Because they have nothing to sell, when they are teamed with the superintendent, the entire turf management program at a club is strengthened. Professionals have always consulted with one another—doctors, lawyers, accountants, even golf professionals. The Green Section is unique. Year after year, since 1923, it has been devoted solely to golf course turf. Try putting it to work for you.