

TURF TWISTERS

THE MAN TO SEE

Question: With all the confusion surrounding the upcoming pesticide certification exams, whom should I contact for more and current information on this subject? (New Jersey)

Answer: In most all states your local county agent or the state extension personnel along with your local GCSAA Chapter should be able to help you keep informed. If you are not on their mailing lists, get on them. Keep informed. These tests are coming up in the relatively near future.

FOR TWO ROWS

Question: In a recent Turf Twister ("Two Rows That Fail"), you reported a two-row automatic irrigation system as inadequate because it heavily irrigates the center of fairways while leaving the perimeters and rough areas relatively dry. To me, your answer is incorrect. It is the one-row system that does this foul deed. Would you comment further? (Ohio)

Answer: Your point is well taken. A two-row automatic system does afford a bit better coverage, but it still, in our opinion, leaves much to be desired. For example, if irrigation heads are triangularly spaced 70 feet apart in a two-row layout, effective coverage (i.e., uniform precipitation rates) can only be achieved between the heads. This means approximately 70 feet of uniform coverage or a fairway about 23 yards wide. By most standards, this is not enough. However, a three-row system will give a fairway width of approximately 46 yards of uniform precipitation. Much better—don't you agree?

OF LITHIUM GREASE

Question: While overhauling our equipment this winter, we decided to switch to a dripless lithium-based grease. Would you happen to know if this grease is compatible with regular petroleum-based greases? (Rhode Island)

Answer: We checked into this question and quite frankly found conflicting answers. Some say yes they are, some say that mixing them tends to break them down more quickly so both drip (and lubricate less), and another says it depends on the greases involved. At this point we are somewhat confused, so perhaps the best answer to this question is to ask your respective machinery and grease suppliers. With the ever increasing dependence on machinery to do golf course work, topnotch maintenance is all-important in keeping the machinery running the entire season through. Proper lubrication is a big part of this, so don't take an unnecessary chance. Use the lubricants recommended by the manufacturer for that piece of equipment. Perhaps saving a few dollars in grease could cost you much more in down time and perhaps even voided warranties. If you do change greases, we feel it would be wise to completely remove, clean, flush, etc., the old grease and simply not take the chance of mixing them and losing some lubrication properties.