

TURF TWISTERS

“IPSO FACTO” = By The Fact Itself

Question: What can I do through cultural practices to encourage turfgrass growth in the shaded areas around the clubhouse? (Wisconsin)

Answer: Pruning the lower branches and thinning out some of the upper limbs of surrounding trees allows the needed light for photosynthesis to reach the turfgrass plant. Raising the cutting height, deep, infrequent irrigation and controlling the traffic will also help, not to mention adequate fertilization, liming, and perhaps an occasional overseeding when needed.

“FERAE NATURAE” = Of A Wild Nature

Question: I haven't had real success with my insecticide applications on greens lately; what could be the problem? (Illinois)

Answer: Perhaps your water pH has something to do with your problem. Insecticides in general are affected when water is alkaline more than fungicides or herbicides. Organophosphates and carbamates are decomposed more rapidly than chlorinated hydrocarbons. Hydrolysis is rapid at a pH slightly above 7.0 when using Malathion. Why not check your water pH and the product you are using to see the rate in which this material will hydrolyze.

“INTER POCULA” = Between Drinks

Question: Are some sands “softer” than others? In my experience, sands of what seem to me to be similar particle size play differently. Am I correct and if so, what causes this? Is this “ipso facto” or am I “ferae naturae” concerning my thoughts and if so, please forgive this explosion. (Pennsylvania)

Answer: You are “ferae naturae” and “ipso facto” but “inter pocula.” Let's discuss the specifics.

Sands of round particle size are softer, and the ball will have more of a tendency to bury, a “fried-egg” will result more often. *Sharp* sand is more desirable in bunkers! Sharp, angular particles set up slightly more stable, slightly **more** compact. **Round**-shaped sand is more desirable for use in putting green soils. The major portion of all sands for bunkers or putting green soils should range from 1mm to **.25mm** in size preferably. Please see our September, 1974 issue of *USGA Green Section Record* for specifics.