

TURF TWISTERS

SKUNKS

Question: Some skunk is divoting my fairways. How do I apprehend the critter? (New York)

Answer: If dressed in anything but black and white, be discreet. If black with white stripe, the critter is divoting for insects or grubs. Get rid of them and the "striped cat" will move to "grubier pastures."

WON'T HOLD

Question: We built three new greens last year. They will not hold a shot very well. Golfers complained the greens are hard. What can be done so they will hold a shot this year? (Iowa)

Answer: It sounds like the new greens have not had sufficient time to develop the necessary amount of thatch and mat for cushion underfoot and the resiliency to hold a properly hit shot. Increasing the amount of nitrogen by $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ pound per 1,000 square feet will help. Occasionally, after fertilization mow the greens without the catchers; this should be beneficial. Depending on varieties, it takes longer for some turf to produce thatch, so do not become impatient if the greens do not improve in their ability to hold a shot within the first year.

MOLE CRICKETS

Question: I am rather isolated and have a problem with mole crickets. What do you suggest for control? (Puerto Rico)

Answer: There are several insecticides that control mole crickets, chlordane, Dursban, Diazinon, Sevin, etc. It is best to apply the insecticide in early May just before dark when the crickets begin to move about. Spray during the nymph stage for best control.