

TURF TWISTERS

WINTER

Question: Can I safely, and effectively, use powdered charcoal to melt snow and ice on our clubhouse sidewalks? (Maine)

Answer: Yes, any dark-colored material should work well.

WATER

Question: What are the major mistakes made in automatic irrigation installations today? (Texas)

Answer: 1) Spacing sprinkler heads too far apart.
2) Main lines not "looped" to insure uniform pressure.
3) Too many heads under the control of one control station.
4) Sprinkler heads under the control of one station not placed at or about the same elevation.

WONDERING

Question: How long have the hormone-type weed killers been around, which one was it, and where was it first used? (New Jersey)

Answer: The first practical usage of a hormone weed killer was about 1943 and the chemical was 2,4-D. Its first usage on golfing turf was at the Chevy Chase Club in Maryland, the **day after** its selective weed control possibilities were recognized by the Green Section botanist, Dr. Fanny Fern Davis. Interestingly, since there was no commercially available formulations of 2,4-D (and 2,4-D is insoluble in water), it had to be mixed with heated 500 pound drums of Carbowax (a material that both dissolves 2,4-D and is itself dissolved by water and has a low melting point), and then carefully applied to the turf to avoid potentially disastrous drift with the crude sprayers of that day. We've come a long way since then.

The Michigan State University Press reports that printing has been delayed on the publication of *Turfgrass Bibliography* and the *Poa Annue Bulletin* because of a strike. It is expected they will be available sometime in September.