

TURF TWISTERS

How's That Gibberellic Acid?

Question: I have Tifgreen bermudagrass throughout the golf course and have difficulty in developing a good uniform rough. Any ideas? (Texas)

Answer: In preparing for the U.S. Open Championship in Atlanta, Ga., last year, gibberellic acid was used in the spring at 10 grams per acre. It stimulated early growth and uniformity was best at a 3-inch height. A good fertilization program will also be important.

For White Roots

Question: As our fairways come out of the winter some areas appear to be dead. How can I tell before greenup time if I'm in trouble? (New Mexico)

Answer: Use a soil probe or a cup cutter and carefully check the roots. If they are white and healthy, recovery chances are good. You might also cut a small section of sod, place it in a flower pot, bring it indoors and observe.

And Timing of Overseeding

Question: We plan to overseed our greens this year with bentgrass and have heard conflicting views as to the best time. When would you sow? (Oregon)

Answer: For overseeding purposes, the early summer (June) has given very good results. Even a mid-summer seeding (July or August) can be effective. Spring or fall overseedings receive tremendous competition from *Poa annua*. But one swallow a summer does not make. To be effective, putting green overseedings should be an annual affair.

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