

TURF TWISTERS

WEATHER

Question: We understand there is a telephone number we can call to receive information about how the weather will affect our contemplated maintenance operations. Do you know of this? (New Jersey)

Answer: Yes, it is called the Farmers Forecast Telephone, a relatively recent service offered in New Jersey and certain other states by the State Department of Agriculture cooperating with the USDA and the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Such information as surface spraying conditions and drying conditions, in addition to forecasts of rain, frosts, etc., is given for periods ranging up to 72 hours. In New Jersey call 201-828-3091.

WATER

Question: We have a green that is located close to a creek in which water flows continuously. If the green were tiled to permit good drainage, we are of the opinion that an objectionable anaerobic odor and sour soil condition could be avoided. The green is high enough above the creek to permit good drainage. Do you have any other suggestions? (Illinois)

Answer: Should you decide to tile the green, fall and early winter are good times. The freezing and thawing of the soil will help create large pore spaces for the water to reach the tile. Also check on the air drainage around the green to make sure trees and underbrush are not interfering with circulation. Avoid overwatering the green.

AND WHEELS

Question: Our club is planning to purchase a new pick-up truck. Do you have any suggestions on how legally to avoid using unleaded gasoline? We now only have one tank for regular leaded gasoline that all our other equipment uses and would like to avoid having to put in another tank just for this purpose. (Massachusetts)

Answer: Perhaps you may want to look into a relatively new weight class of standard pick-up trucks. These vehicles, by being rated at just a few pounds over the 6,000 GVW (Gross Vehicle Weight) class, are not required to meet the same regulations as are passenger vehicles (as regular light duty pick-up trucks are classified). Because of this exemption, such things as catalytic converters (which necessitate the usage of unleaded gasoline) are not required on the vehicle. Because of this, you can then continue using your regular gasoline.