

TURF TWISTERS

SAVE THE BARK

Question: How can young trees be protected from damage caused by wildlife during the winter?
(New York)

Answer: You may have at least two types of injury: the browsing of deer on twigs or entire small plants and the feeding of mice or rabbits on the bark of trees, perhaps to the extent of girdling them. Keeping the surrounding vegetation down is important in mice control, especially for a 4- to 5-foot radius about the trunk. Mice and rabbits can best be thwarted with a wrap of ¼ inch mesh hardware cloth imbedded several inches into the ground and extending above the expected snow line. Fencing can be used to keep deer and rabbits from an area, or commercially available repellents can be applied.

A LITTLE HEAT

Question: Why is it that constant effort is needed to keep the golf course in top shape and the whole operation running smoothly? (Illinois)

Answer: The Second Law of Thermodynamics deals with this, the tendency of all systems to randomize (the property of entropy). In effect, to maintain order always requires energy expenditure . . . and sometimes a little heat!

WILL REMOVE ICE

Question: When does ice endanger turf on putting greens . . . when should it be removed?
(Connecticut)

Answer: Removal operations should begin after 60 days of continuous ice cover on greens composed primarily of *Poa annua*, whereas, 100 days may be allowed to pass before initiating ice removal on predominantly bentgrass greens. Tolerance to ice cover is another strong reason why bentgrass is preferred over *Poa annua* as a putting surface.