

TURF TWISTERS

DEW

Question: Why is dew removal from greens so important? (Georgia)

Answer: Dew is composed of condensation and internal exudates from the grass plants. These exudates contain carbohydrates, amino acids, nutrients and other materials which are an excellent growth medium for disease spores. Removal of dew can be done by whipping, mowing, or light syringing, which will not only eliminate this favorable medium for disease but will allow for faster drying of turf.

STOP WATERING

Question: We were forced to stop watering our bermudagrass fairways this summer because of a lack of sufficient water. Will this cause them to die? (Oklahoma)

Answer: No! Bermudagrass will survive a summer drought without water. The stand may be a little thinner than normal next spring and additional fertilizer at that time would be desirable. If the stand is thin going into winter, then winter annual weeds may become thick enough to require some control measures. If the drought ends a month before expected frost, 400 pounds of a 10-10-10 fertilizer or 10-5-10 might be desirable. Fertilizer applications should not be made later than this in the fall.

A PERNICIOUS WEED

Question: My golf course is located in Southern California, and we have a tremendous problem in keeping kikuyugrass out of the common bermudagrass tees. Any suggestions? (Southern California)

Answer: Kikuyugrass (*Pennisetum clandestinum*) is a vigorous weed pest along the California Coast. Indeed, many courses are now 100 percent kikuyugrass. This grass is extremely aggressive, and thatch control in fine turf areas becomes very difficult. The most successful control method to date is applications of glyphosate (Roundup) in the late summer or early fall.

Consideration might be given to use of a hybrid bermudagrass, such as Tifgreen or Santa Ana, on tees. These hybrids form a denser turf than common bermudagrass. A denser turf is always a deterrent to weed invasion.