

# TURF TWISTERS

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## CRITICAL

**Question:** Can I apply limestone at any time of the year? (New Jersey)

**Answer:** Anytime the ground is firm enough it's safe to apply limestone. Most superintendents, however, prefer to apply it in spring or late fall, when it is convenient to their schedule . . . when more critical management practices are completed. One caution — pulverized limestone applied at heavy rates, one ton or more per acre, will remain visible on soil and turf for weeks. It tracks and is also visible on golf shoes. Therefore, it is not in the best interests of public relations to apply it when play is at its peak.

## IRON PROBLEM

**Question:** What is the standard rate of iron sulfate for turfgrass use? (Indiana)

**Answer:** For turfgrasses the standard rate is one to two ounces per 1,000 square feet. Normally, iron sulfate is regularly applied with fungicide sprays on greens and fairways for added color. Iron (ferrous) sulfate restores color quickly when iron is lacking or unavailable to the plant. Iron helps provide color without promoting vigorous growth, which is important during times when weather is touchy to safely apply nitrogen.

To remedy acute iron chlorosis, it is best to apply the sulfate in limited water, two to three gallons per 1,000 square feet when grass blades are dry. Do not water the treatment in. For acute iron chlorosis, two or three ounces of iron sulfate is recommended. When three ounces is applied, the turf may take on a black cast for a day or two. This will disappear with mowing.

## CONSULT AN EXPERT

**Question:** We are having problems with our old irrigation system and would like to consult an expert in this field. Who can we contact? (New Jersey)

**Answer:** For the names of irrigation engineers in your area, contact:

Irrigation Association  
13975 Connecticut Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20906  
Telephone: (301) 871-8188