

# TURF TWISTERS

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## A PITCH

**Question:** What is the maximum recommended slope or pitch that can be designed into a putting green for good surface drainage and for fairness in putting? (New York)

**Answer:** Generally, the maximum recommended slope is 3 percent. This is not to say, however, that some fine and challenging greens do not have slopes that exceed 3 percent. There are always exceptions to every rule, and there are those who will defend greens exceeding 3 percent to the very end . . . that's what makes the 19th hole so interesting!

## AND PEARLS

**Question:** Ground pearls have been reported to be a problem in some states. What are they and have they ever been found in our state? (Oklahoma)

**Answer:** Yes, they were first reported on a home lawn in Oklahoma in the summer of 1977. The ground pearl is a soil-inhabiting scale insect enclosed in a hard, round shell measuring about 0.13 inch that very much resembles a tiny pearl. Ground pearls feed on grass roots. Heavy infestations cause the grass to turn brown and die in irregular spots. Control can sometimes be very difficult. Check with your Agricultural Experiment Station or the College of Agriculture at Oklahoma State University for recommended insecticides for control of this pest.

## FOR THE PESTICIDE SAFETY NETWORK

**Question:** Do you have any information on the Pesticide Safety Team Network? (Connecticut)

**Answer:** Yes. Chemical manufacturers have established the Pesticide Safety Team Network, which includes a 24-hour toll-free phone number. The number is 800-424-9300. The PSTN also has trained teams available to help with the clean-up and disposal of spilled pesticides.