

TURF TWISTERS

RESOLVED IN 1980: BREAK THE HABIT

Question: I have been brought up to irrigate early in spring. A superintendent from a course nearby says I'm wrong. What's your opinion? (Pennsylvania)

Answer: Your neighbor is right. It's advisable to hold off with irrigation as long as you can in your state and in states having similar climate. Remember that once you begin, you must continue to irrigate. Living things are creatures of habit, and grasses are no exception. Spring is the time of the year to toughen your turf, not baby it!

GROW A GRASS LIP

Question: What is the correct way to edge a bunker to create a lip at green side? (Oregon)

Answer: Most bunkers are constructed with a slope facing up to the putting green. A bunker lip is created by growing a grass overhang to the required depth and not by use of an edging tool. The thatch and turf should overhang the top of the slope, three inches or more, so that players cannot putt out of the bunker. If no lip is present, rake several inches of sand away from the top to allow the turf and thatch some growing room. It will form a grass lip in time. Edging tools are used mainly to edge the rear and sides of bunkers and should be very sparingly used on the forward side of the bunker, the side facing the green, so that the grass lip is not destroyed.

AND CUT A FAIR CUP!

Question: What is USGA policy with respect to hole location on a mound or slope of a putting green? (Connecticut)

Answer: An area two to three feet in radius around the hole should be in good condition without any steep slopes or, if possible, any changes in the degree of slope. In other words, the green in the holing-out area should be as nearly level as possible and of uniform grade, but it need not be exactly level. In no case should holes be located in tricky places, or on sharp slopes where a ball can gather speed. A player above the hole should be able to putt with a reasonable degree of boldness, and not purely defensively.