

TURF TWISTERS

HERE'S THREE WAYS

Question: Do you have any suggestions for discouraging or eliminating bermudagrass encroachment into my bentgrass putting greens? (Missouri)

Answer: The application of the pre-emergent herbicide siduron, commercially available as Tupersan, at the rate of 13 ounces per 1,000 square feet has been helpful in discouraging some bermudagrass encroachment. Certain varieties of bentgrass, however, are susceptible to siduron or Tupersan; therefore, exercise caution with this method.

It is possible to apply a non-selective translocating herbicide, such as glyphosate, commercially available as Roundup, at the manufacturer's recommended rate. After all the sprayed vegetation has expired, resod the area.

Several golf course superintendents have reported favorable results by sodding six to nine collars every year with bentgrass from the nursery on a two- to three-year rotational program.

TO KILL THE GOOSE

Question: We have an extensive goosegrass problem on our bermudagrass fairways and tees during the summer. People say metribuzin is an excellent control, but we can't use it here. Where is this chemical approved for use on goosegrass? (North Carolina)

Answer: Metribuzin is approved for turf under a 24-C label only in South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Mississippi. Excellent post-emergent control is being obtained with the herbicide when used in conjunction with MSMA.

THAT LAYERED THE SOIL

Question: Our golf course lies in a low area that receives heavy runoff from the surrounding housing area. During the heavy winter rains, two fairways were almost completely covered with a silt layer. The silt was removed with heavy equipment and high pressure water hoses. Is there anything else we should do? (Southern California)

Answer: Indeed there is. Even though most of the deposited silt was removed, you can be sure that a layer of silt still overlies your turfgrass and fairway soil. This layer can prevent movement of water and nutrients into the root zone and is certain to cause problems later. A good aeration program to disrupt the silt layer will be required to allow water penetration, to promote good root development and to speed turfgrass recovery.