

# TURF TWISTERS

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## THREE S's THAT MAKE SUMMER SENSE

### SPIKE

**Question:** I am considering a spiking program for my greens. Is it a good practice, and if so, when is the best time to spike? (Virginia)

**Answer:** Spiking greens on a regular schedule in your state and in states of similar climate is of pronounced benefit to bentgrass putting greens. The best program is to begin spiking in late spring and to continue to spike weekly through to the end of the summer season. The spike tines break through the thatch, keeping channels open for water movement into the soil. Spiking weekly is of special benefit to thatchy greens and greens on heavily played courses.

### SYRINGE

**Question:** Would you define what is meant by syringing? (New Jersey)

**Answer:** A syringe is a fine mist showering of cool-season grasses during periods of wilt stress which frequently occur from noon to 2 P.M. in summer. Syringing cools the turf, provides some moisture, perks up the turf and slows down its rate of respiration. Syringing is not a watering, it's a refresher, and a Green Section agronomist once described it as wetting the blades of grass without wetting the soil. On grasses mowed continuously from 5/32 to 1/4 inch . . . that takes the touch of a safecracker!

### SPRAY . . . THIS AIN'T JIMINY!

**Question:** Mole crickets are about to turn our fairways into a plowed field, but we are unsure of an effective control. Is it true that a thorough nematode program will also control mole crickets? (Florida)

**Answer:** Very definitely nematicides control mole crickets, and courses inflicted with this insect pest are better able to justify expensive nematode treatment because of the extra bonus of mole cricket control. These insects can also be controlled with Baygon or Dursban Bait, materials which should be applied in late afternoon to "set the table" for their most active feeding time.