

# TURF TWISTERS

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## GOING AROUND IN CIRCLES

**Question:** We have a new member of our golf committee who insists that fairways should be mowed in circles in order to force the grain of the grass to lie away from the tee toward the green so the ball rolls farther. I have been a golf course superintendent for 25 years and this is the first time that I have heard this . . . . I'd appreciate your expert opinion. (Ohio)

**Answer:** Fairways are mowed in various directions — but never in circles. Fairways are mowed lengthwise, diagonally and sometimes they are cross-cut. The only circular movement on fairways occurs at the beginning and ends of fairways where the operator must turn to pick up his next line of cut. If fairways were always cut in circles, there would be a pronounced bruising all over fairways caused by the abrasion of turning wheels, similar to that which occurs at the beginning of fairways and at the turn-around point near the green.

## MAY NOT BE SAFE

**Question:** Can oxadiazon (Ronstar) be used as a preemergent for *Poa annua* control on Tifgreen (328) greens and tees? (Texas)

**Answer:** No, at least two such cases we observed last spring indicated that fall applications of oxadiazon may not be safe on close-cut turf. Evidence also points to trouble on bermudagrass greens when oxadiazon is applied in spring for goosegrass control. The present label does not recommend oxadiazon for use on tees and greens.

## IN PURSUIT OF A MATE

**Question:** Last fall we had a serious problem with coyotes digging holes on the putting greens. Insecticides had been applied regularly through the summer, and no substantial insect or grub problems were found. What can we do this year to prevent a recurrence of the problem? (California)

**Answer:** That's a tough one! If grubs and other insects had been controlled, the coyotes obviously were not after food. A check with conservation officials indicates that the most likely reason for the coyotes' presence at that time of the year was probably male coyotes in pursuit of a mate. The scent of females was probably found on the putting green, and the male coyotes dug on the green to try to reestablish the scent. If your state, county or local government has an animal control office, you might contact it about trapping and relocating the coyotes in areas away from the golf course.