

TURF TWISTERS

BE CAREFUL — USING HERBICIDES

Question: Are there any pre-emerge herbicides that you can use on putting green turf and overseed at the same time or within a reasonable time after the herbicide is applied? (Maryland)

Answer: The only pre-emerge that can be used in conjunction with overseeding is Siduron (Tupersan), but this herbicide can only be used on certain bentgrasses; therefore, it is not recommended for bentgrass putting greens. However, be advised that Siduron is especially lethal to bentgrasses that turn purple in fall. This is the "Washington type" bentgrass, so-called after the original Green Section Washington selection, which is one that takes on a purple hue in fall.

SODDING ZOYSIA COLLARS

Question: We would like to use zoysia to keep bermudagrass out of our bentgrass greens. Will it serve well in this particular role? (Kansas - Oklahoma - Texas)

Answer: We have been asked this question many times and the answer is no. Zoysia has been tried by others for this purpose in your states, and in all cases we have seen it fail. It will work for two or more years, depending on the width of the zoysia band that is put down initially, but under the high-fertility program common to collars and the reasonably high amount of moisture required, the bentgrass overcomes the zoysia from the green side and the bermuda overcomes the zoysia from the bank or approach side. However, in areas of low fertility and reduced irrigation, such as around sand bunkers, zoysia works reasonably well in holding the bermudagrasses in check.

AND CHANGING HOLES

Question: We often receive complaints that the turf is sometimes raised, causing the ball to stop at the edge of the hole on putting greens. What causes this and how can we correct this situation? (Maine)

Answer: There are several possibilities: (1) The worker changing the cup may be tilting the hole-cutting tool as he removes the plug. (2) The worker may be raising the soil when he removes the cup setter — the device that assures the liner will be set one inch below the turf surface. If not removed vertically, the cup setter device could raise the turf. (3) If the flagstick sticks when players attempt to remove it, the cup liner will raise the soil and turf also.

"Pull the pin, Martha, quick!!!"

