

# TURF TWISTERS

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## THESE FRIED EGGS

**Question:** Our sand in bunkers is such that a "fried egg" occurs almost every time a ball lands in a bunker at our course. Why does this occur, and what, if anything, can we do about it? (Oklahoma)

**Answer:** The problem is not uncommon with new sand placed to a 4- to 6-inch depth. If the sand has been in use for more than one year, the problem may be the shape of the individual particles that make up your sand. Particles that are round or smooth will tend to set-up softer than sharp, angular particles of sand. It may be that by adding sharp sand over your present sand to a depth of an inch or so it may be possible to stabilize the unsatisfactory sand. Try this on a small bunker first to ensure that it will work before proceeding full scale with this project.

The Texas A&M soils lab sponsored by the USGA is researching bunker sand quality, including an investigation into the solutions for excessive "fried egg" lies.

## AND MYCORRHIZAE —

**Question:** What are mycorrhizae and what are their significance in turfgrass management? (Ohio)

**Answer:** Although very little is known about the importance of mycorrhizae in relation to the health and vigor of turfgrasses, it is known that this symbiotic fungus plays an important role in the growth of other crops, by somehow increasing nutrient and water intake by the root system. As turfgrass researchers learn more about these organisms, their knowledge will be shared with us.

## DEFINITELY NOT FOR PARTYING!

**Question:** I overheard the term "mixed liquor" used in casual course management conversation at a club where I was a guest recently. Does it have any significance other than social? (Arizona)

**Answer:** What you overheard apparently had reference to the use of effluent water in golf course irrigation. "Mixed liquor" is a mixture of primary effluent or untreated sewage and activated sludge . . . the contents of aeration tanks in the activated sludge process.