

TURF TWISTERS

TO SET STANDARDS

Question: Recently, a salesman told me his company sold a sand that was "USGA approved." Is there a USGA approved sand? (Kentucky)

Answer: The USGA does not approve or endorse any product. The USGA sets standards of specification for those who wish to conform. The USGA offers no objection to any sand company stating that its sand conforms to USGA specifications, if indeed it does. The burden of proof, however, rests with the advertising company, not the USGA. Also understood is that the USGA will not allow statement or implication in ads to the effect that we endorse any product.

KEEP NUTRIENT BALANCE

Question: I have been using iron sulfate to maintain good color on my putting green turfgrass. I've noticed that although I still get a response, it is not as good as it used to be. Could you offer any explanation? (Ohio)

Answer: Try adding magnesium sulfate (Epsom salts) to the spray mixture. Iron sulfate stimulates the production of chlorophyll, and since magnesium makes up the center molecule of chlorophyll, you truly need both in balance. Therefore, add magnesium sulfate at the same rate you use the iron sulfate and see if the turf response improves.

AND DON'T FORCE GROWTH

Question: The dry weather of last year has us worried about our greens. What can we do? (Eastern Pennsylvania)

Answer: Be sure to aerate your greens this spring to take full advantage of precipitation and to minimize surface runoff. Several applications of wetting agents will also help to improve water infiltration. Also, try to reduce the growth rate of the grasses. A plant that is growing slowly will require less water. A very good first step is to reduce the amount of nitrogen applied in early spring months. Let nature provide the early growth, and do not force growth earlier than necessary.