

# TURF TWISTERS

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## WHEN YOU CAN'T FIND ANYONE IN AUGUST

**Question:** Why do so many turf people favor *Poa annua*? (New Jersey)

**Answer:** We're not sure turf people do favor this grass, although many golfers feel it is the greatest for about six weeks every spring. By mid-July they are not so sure and by mid-August, you can't find anyone who exclaimed its virtues three months earlier! Actually, turf growers live with *Poa annua* because it is so prevalent and there is no foolproof way of preventing it. However, the right combinations of irrigation, herbicide applications, aeration timing, sulfur use, soil pH control, fertilization, overseeding, and persistence over the years, have been known to yield success.

## FLOWERS WILL BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY

**Question:** There are several areas around our course where we would like to plant flowers. Some of these areas are located in light to medium shade. What flowers will do best in this situation? (Massachusetts)

**Answer:** The three most popular annual flowers for use in the shade are impatiens, begonias, and coleus. Other useful flowering plants tolerant to shade include browallia, lobelia, myosotis, sweet alyssum, and torenia. When planting flower beds, be sure to space the plants close together (6 to 12 inches). Improper spacing is a frequent cause of disappointing flower beds.

## THOUGH THE PARKING LOT IS SALTED

**Question:** My golf course gets considerable runoff from our parking lot, and this winter we used tremendous quantities of salt to control ice. Is gypsum still the best material to counter the effects of sodium in the soil? (Wisconsin)

**Answer:** Yes, it is. About 40 to 50 pounds per 1,000 square feet per application is the best way to start this spring.

## THE ROLLER IS HERE TO STAY

**Question:** Should I roll my bumpy putting greens in the spring?

**Answer:** A light rolling of greens after the winter's heaving action is usually a good practice. However, rolling wet, saturated putting green soils under any circumstances is not recommended.