

TURF TWISTERS

FOR A COLLEGE MAJOR

Question: I'm considering a turf management major in college. What is the outlook for new golf course development? (New Hampshire)

Answer: Harry C. Eckhoff, of the National Golf Foundation, recently reported that 149 new golf courses opened last year and, as of January 1, 1982, 340 new ones are currently in some stage of construction. Florida leads the way with 26 new course starts; California, 10; Texas, nine; etc. The only states not reporting activity in golf course development last year were Alaska, Delaware, Rhode Island and South Dakota. Although 1982 is not expected to be an outstanding year, it should show some improvement over 1981. Leading economists expect a modest recovery this year and more stable, non-inflationary growth in 1983.

IT'S WORTH A TRY

Question: Any new information on how to control fairy rings? (Illinois)

Answer: Yes! (Something old or something new — it's worth a try and it's up to you.) Recent field experience (not supported by any specific research) and some old-timers have reported that additions of hydrated lime at 1 lb./1000 sq. ft. applied to the active rings and lightly watered seem to retard the growth of the fairy ring organism. With the thatch generally being acidic, often independent of soil pH, the lime changes this to a slightly alkaline value which, it is thought, slows the growth of the organism. When tried on some golf courses, this seems to work. However, as with the nature of this difficult problem, on other golf courses, it does not work. In any case, with no known cure, at least now there is one more thing you can try to control fairy rings: light rates of hydrated lime applied to the rings. It's worth a try.

TO JUST NICK THE BLADE

Question: Somehow my bentgrass greens and tees have all become rather fluffy. I had no opportunity to work on them last fall. What can be done now? (New York)

Answer: Spring is the time when grain and fluffy growth are most pronounced. You are right on time! Light and frequent vertical mowing, once steady growth has begun, is the answer. Set the vertical mower for a *very light cut*; just nick the grass blades. Do not cut into the crown. A light, double vertical mowing several times during the spring should work wonders. And, don't forget to start in with *light*, monthly topdressings, too.