

TURF TWISTERS

“STOP” IN THE SUMMER — “GO” IN THE FALL

Question: I have been using preemergence herbicides on our bermudagrass tees to control silver crabgrass, or goosegrass, through the summer. Now I want to overseed the same tees (and collars) for the winter. Will I be successful? Has the preemergence material dissipated by now? Will it harm my overseeding? (Virginia)

Answer: Yes. Hard to say. Maybe. But regardless of these answers, there is a possible way to cancel out the lingering effectiveness of the preemergence herbicide. A week or two before overseeding, apply activated charcoal to the herbicide-treated areas. The suggested rate is two to three pounds per 1,000 square feet.

A ONE-POINT-FIVE

Question: In my area, sand and gravel companies sell their products by the ton. In the Green Section Specifications, you list sand and gravel needs by the cubic yard. What's the correct conversion factor? (California)

Answer: In days of old, sand and gravel were sold by volume. These days, most trucking companies base their charges on weight and not volume. A standard figure of 1.5 is generally used for converting yards of sand or gravel to tons. For example, if recommendations call for 10 cubic yards of sand, simply multiply by 1.5 to find the approximate tons of sand required (in this case, 15 tons). Oh yes, also be wary of “wet loads.”

ANTI-FREEZE CALL

Question: Is potash helpful in the fall for improving bermudagrass winter hardiness? (South Carolina)

Answer: Potash is extremely important for improving winter hardiness of bermudagrass. When potash is applied and taken up by the bermudagrass plant, the freezing point of all fluids is depressed and water is driven out of the cells. Thus, potash acts as an anti-freeze. About four weeks before the first expected frost, apply potash at 1 to 1½ pounds per 1,000 square feet to improve winter hardiness.