

TURF TWISTERS

AN ERASER

Comment: (Maryland)

"You have frequently mentioned the use of activated charcoal for neutralizing the effects of preemergence herbicides. I believe you are correct in your praises. The product works! However, the effect of one activated charcoal application is to neutralize most pesticides for a substantial period of time, including applications of beneficial fungicides, etc. Therefore, activated charcoal is not a cure-all. It could even be detrimental in the long run. Certainly it is no substitute for thorough knowledge of and experience with pesticides, i.e., how they work, how long they last, etc. This knowledge begins with reading and understanding the pesticide's label and the precautions printed thereon. Perhaps other readers of the GREEN SECTION RECORD would appreciate my caution concerning the use of activated charcoal."

We tip our activated hat to CGCS Merrill J. Frank, of Baltimore Country Club, Maryland.

IS BETTER THAN NITROGEN

Question: Is iron still a good additive to tank mix with fungicides when you are spraying your greens? (Michigan)

Answer: Absolutely! Iron has many uses; foremost among them is its ability to stimulate good green color in the grass without the excessive growth of nitrogen applications. Furthermore, there is some very real evidence that using iron to maintain a good chlorophyll level helps to make the plant stronger and better able to stand the stresses of the summer. This is especially true in the northern climates where *Poa annua* exists and the superintendent wants to keep it alive during the summer. It is no cure-all, but adding iron to the spray tank is still a very good program to follow.

FOR SUMMER GREENS

Question: I have heard that spiking is helpful in reducing the persistence of localized dry spots on summer greens, but doesn't spiking add to compaction? (South Carolina)

Answer: Spiking is most beneficial in reducing dry spot formation because it opens the surface slightly and improves water infiltration. You are also correct about its effects on compaction, but a proper aeration program of two to three times per year offsets any compaction problems from the spiker.