TURF TWISTERS

OLD BUT NEW ADVICE

Question: I am involved with the building of a new golf course this spring. Do you have any guidelines or general recommendations for us to follow? (Missouri)

Answer: You may not believe this, but the same question was asked nearly 60 years ago in *The Bulletin* of the USGA Green Section. The answer hasn't changed one bit! We can only think of two general guidelines to keep in mind:

"**A.** Be sure to use good common sense and good judgement in every job undertaken.

"**B.** Provide good drainage throughout the property and on every green, tee and fairway.

"Now, if you find there is not very much of 'A' on the job; better provide that much more of 'B'!"

FOR THE TURF MANAGEMENT TEAM

Question: I've recently been appointed to the Green Committee at my club. If I am going to serve on this committee (I'm a businessman), I want to do the best job possible. How do I prepare for it? (California)

Answer: First, introduce yourself to your golf course superintendent. Get to know him and his problems on a friendly and first-hand basis. What he will value most on the Green Committee is an understanding associate willing to do his part on the turf management team. That part is well described in a Green Section publication, "A Guide for Green Committee Members of Golf Clubs." It is available, free, from Golf House or from any of the Green Section regional offices, as shown on the inside front cover. And — oh yes, good to remember: most golf course superintendents already have 300 (or more) bosses at the club.

TO CONTROL ALGAE

Question: Several years ago I began a sand topdressing program on my greens. The program has performed beautifully, increasing the overall health and playability of the greens. However, I have noticed that in the past few summers I have picked up algae, which was never really a problem on my greens before. Is it my imagination? (Wisconsin)

Answer: Common sense would indicate that sand topdressed greens should have less of an algae problem than the older style topsoil materials because the surface should be more dry. But you say more algae is now noticeable. Algae must have sunlight and moisture to survive. Perhaps the sand topdressings are too heavy, or the rapid accumulation of sand from a light and frequent topdressing program is causing a thinner, more open turf. More sunlight reaches the sand surface, and light summertime irrigations present the right conditions for algae development. Of course any number of other possibilities also exist: lower cutting height, more frequent vertical mowing, heavy traffic, etc. But if it is not culturally possible to reduce the amount of sunlight and moisture at the surface, then the use of an effective and low cost algicide seems the answer. They will do the job easily and economically.