

TURF TWISTERS

FALL IS FOR SULFUR

Question: Can sulfur cause a burn on my greens? (Illinois)

Answer: Indeed it can! As with any chemical, exercise care in the rate, formulation, and timing of sulfur applications. (See Dr. Roy Goss's article in this issue.) We have seen instances where coarse, granular sulfur applied in the fall did not break down and was still visible the next spring and even caused small Dollar-Spot-sized burn marks the following summer! Therefore, choose a sulfur that readily dissolves and use at common-sense rates: one-half pound per 1,000 square feet per month in cool weather until three-and-a-half pounds are applied per year. Avoid summer applications.

SHATTERING IS FOR SOILS

Question: What is "shattercore" aerification, and is it useful? (Florida)

Answer: Shattercore aerification is solid-tine aerification with a walking green aerifier. The name shattercore is derived from the shattering of the soil around the tine due to the force of the machine. Studies at Michigan State University have shown short-range improvement, but long-range results are not known at this time. Since some surface disturbance is possible, it is best to experiment with the technique on your soils before making big plans.

EDB IS FOREGONE

Question: Now that EDB is gone, what do I use for nematode control? (Florida)

Answer: Unfortunately, there is not a good substitute for EDB at this time. Of course NemaCur is still available, but this material, unlike EDB, is too expensive to be used on fairways, roughs, or other large acreage areas. Hopefully, there will soon be a new product available to turf managers to replace EDB and DBCP.