

TURF TWISTERS

TIS THE SEASON

Question: The conifers on our golf course are seasonally the prey of Christmas tree poachers who steal prime specimens during December. Short of hiring armed guards, is there anything that can be done to discourage this activity? (New Jersey)

Answer: Several golf courses have had good luck applying a material to the trees called MGK Big Game Repellent. It contains 37 percent putrescent whole egg solids, emitting a malodorous scent which discourages potential tree poachers. The material can be obtained by contacting the McLaughlin Gornley King Company, 8810 - 10th Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN 55427. This material is also useful in preventing damage to trees and ornamentals by browsing deer.

FOR JACK FROST

Question: What's the USGA's position on winter play on greens? I'm in a running battle every year about this time. (New Jersey and Washington)

Answer: The USGA does not have a policy on "winter greens," but we all agree — winter play on regular greens causes serious agronomic problems. Small, well maintained temporaries allow the golfer to enjoy the game while saving the regular greens from unnecessary winter time abuse. See the September/October, 1984 RECORD and Bud White's article, "Playing Par with Jack Frost." And good luck with a problem that just doesn't seem to go away.

AND MORE STATISTICS

Question: A recent newspaper article reported that Americans are more likely to be injured and sent to the hospital emergency rooms by stairs, ramps, and landings than any other cause (531 injuries per 100,000 Americans). The most severe injuries are caused by cigarette lighters (8.7 injuries per 100,000 persons). I have also recently read that nearly 50,000 young people die each year in this country from illicit drugs!

How many deaths from pesticide use on golf courses have you heard about in 1984 and what do you think about all of this? (Michigan)

Answer: A. Zero.
B. No argument with your statistics.