

# TURF TWISTERS

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## GEESE AND DOGS

**Question:** Geese are making a mess of my golf course, not to mention their being noisy and disruptive to play. Plastic swans don't seem to bother them much. What, if anything, can I do to get rid of these unwanted visitors? (Connecticut)

**Answer:** Turning the course into a goose hunting club is probably out of the question. You might try borrowing one or more good bird dogs to worry and pester the geese off your property. Once the geese know they will be bothered on the course, hopefully they won't want to return.

## LONG IN THE TOOTH

**Question:** I am trying to convince my committee of the need to replace our 15-year-old fairway tractor. It is "long in the tooth" and in constant need of repair. (Oregon)

**Answer:** Quite often, members do not understand how many hours certain pieces of equipment are used in a year's time. If a fairway tractor operates seven hours a day for approximately 200 days per year, it would have 1400 hours of operation annually. An automobile driven the equivalent amount of time at 60 mph would accumulate approximately 84,000 miles of wear on its engine. From this analogy, one can see that maintenance equipment should be depreciated on a fixed schedule and replaced before maintenance problems and down time become excessive. Many times golf course maintenance operations can be one or two pieces of equipment away from making a dramatic difference in the golf course.

## CHECK THE pH

**Question:** We have noticed that our fungicide treatments often fail to live up to their billing on efficacy or longevity. We are confident that our application rates and sprayer operations are correct. What can be wrong? (Minnesota)

**Answer:** Check the pH of the water being used. Some water supplies are alkaline and may react with some chemicals to reduce their effectiveness. Use an acidic additive such as vinegar to reduce the pH to 6 or 6.5 (just slightly acidic). You can check the pH with a swimming pool test kit, litmus paper, etc.