

# TURF TWISTERS

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## THE BOUNCING BALL

**Question:** As my members approach our greens, many want some kind of indicator showing the location of the cup; *i.e.*, front, middle or rear. The "moveable ball" idea on the flag stick is a good one, but all too often the ball somehow moves up or down during the day. Then I have unhappy members! Any other ideas? (California)

**Answer:** Club Professional Doug Vilven, at Park City Golf Club, in Utah, has another idea; use different colored flags to indicate hole position. For example, red - forward, yellow - middle, blue - rear. Assuming a balanced yardage golf course, that means six red flags, six yellow, and six blue flags appropriately moved by the cup setter on his rounds. Happy members!

## NEEDS DEFENSE

**Question:** We're considering building a golf course, but we foresee problems with environmental groups with regard to pesticides and fertilizers. Is information available that can be used to defend pesticide and fertilizer use? (New York)

**Answer:** Although efforts to put together such information are largely in the formative states, the Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA) is trying to coordinate these activities on a national scale. Its address is 1225 Ferry Road, N.E., Suite B-220, Marietta, GA 30067 (404) 977-5222.

## AT THE END OF THE SEASON

**Question:** What is the best way to blow out an irrigation system at the end of the season? (New Hampshire)

**Answer:** Evacuating the water in sections by isolating the upper, middle, and lower third of the system works very well. Use enough pressure to operate the heads if the system is automatic. Attach quick-couplers on a manual system to insure that the lines and valves are as water-free as possible. Clearing the system in sections enables you to check for leaks or damage in the isolation valves as well as prepare the system for winter.