

TURF TWISTERS

DON'T CHANGE GREEN CHAIRMAN SO OFTEN

Question: My green committee chairman changes every year. Just as it seems we are communicating effectively, the process begins all over again. How can I convince my membership of the necessity for changing this practice? (Texas)

Answer: This is a serious problem encountered quite often. The best proof of the desirability of longer tenure for the chairman (at least three years) is found by examining the arrangement at the most successful turf programs across the country. Invariably, the chairman and the superintendent have worked together for many years to improve their facility.

DON'T TRADE A SURE THING FOR AN "I DON'T KNOW."

Question: We can get a very good quality sand for topdressing our greens. What do you think about adding about 20 percent peat? (Minnesota)

Answer: Why trade a sure thing for an "I don't know"? Peats are naturally quite variable and may introduce enough silt, clay, or very fine sand to block non-capillary pores in a mixture. If your rate of topdressing approximates the rate of grass growth, you will generate an adequate organic supply on your own without adding peat and without the danger of contamination.

PLEASE DON'T COMPLICATE MY LIFE ANY FURTHER

Statement: In the September/October, 1985, RECORD, there was a suggestion that different colored flags be used to assist golfers in determining where the holes are located on a green. I don't care for this idea, and here are my reasons:

1. Yellow flags are best for visibility and depth perception.
2. Finding, training and inspiring hole cutters is difficult enough. Complicating their lives (and mine) with three different colored flags every time the hole is changed (forward, middle, rear) may push many of us over the brink.
3. The logistics, theft of flags, and added expense almost assures it.
4. There are still purists who love the game for what it is. Yardage indicators of any kind deserve questioning. (Pennsylvania & Idaho)