

TURF TWISTERS

WHEN IT COMES TO ALLOCATING MONEY

Question: I find it difficult to convince my club to support turf research. They all think it is a good idea, but when it comes to allocating the money, other priorities always seem to come into play. Any ideas? (Ohio)

Answer: Yes. Monroe Miller, Superintendent of the Blackhawk Country Club, of Madison, Wisconsin, has established a separate line item in his yearly maintenance budget for the support of turf research. What an innovative idea! The funds are approved as part of the regular budget process. In this way, it is usually easier to gain approval from the Board. The USGA-GCSAA Research Program needs this kind of continuing support if we are to have better turfgrasses for the future. By the way, such research funds can be sent directly to the USGA at:

Golf House
Far Hills, NJ 07931
Attn: Don Spencer

If you want the donations specifically directed towards turfgrass research, be sure to note this point on your check or in the covering letter.

OVER HALF HAD NEVER HEARD

Question: This is probably a dumb question, but as a golf course superintendent of six years, I need a comprehensive reference book in my work. Can you suggest one? (Australia)

Answer: We certainly can! It is *Turf Management for Golf Courses*, a USGA publication written by Dr. James B. Beard and published by Burgess Publishing Company, Minneapolis, Minnesota. You are not alone. At a recent two-day seminar on basic turfgrass botany for golf course superintendents in the U.S., over half of those in attendance had never heard of *Turf Management for Golf Courses*, first published in 1982.

OF FIBER — IN YOUR DIET AND IN YOUR BUNKERS

Question: We will soon rebuild our bunkers and plan to install new sand. Because of our natural rocky soil, we plan to install a spun fiber material throughout the bunker to reduce contamination from rocks and soil. Is this feasible? (California)

Answer: As long as the fiber material is deep enough, preferably eight to 10 inches for mechanical rake use, and the drain lines are not covered, this is a good means to control contamination problems. Perforate the liner over the drain lines or, better yet, do not place it over the tile line at all so that there is no possibility of its becoming plugged or clogged with fine material over a prolonged period.