

TURF TWISTERS

EXTRAORDINARY — ISN'T IT?

Question: On the cover of the November/December, 1986, issue of the GREEN SECTION RECORD, you had one of the most extraordinary golf course scenes I've ever seen. Can you tell us more about it? (Montana)

Answer: It is the fifth hole at the Elk River Club, in Banner Elk, North Carolina. The course was opened in 1985; Monty Melton is the superintendent, and Bill Hensley the manager. It is inviting, isn't it?

SOIL MICROBES EAT ISOFENPHOS

Question: Two summers ago we got excellent mole cricket control from isofenphos (oftanol). Last summer we decided to make two applications to extend control activity, but very poor results occurred after the second application. Are we experiencing a resistance build-up already? (Florida)

Answer: Yes and no. No — the mole crickets have not become resistant to isofenphos, but yes, you are experiencing a soil resistance phenomenon. Research has found that following an application of isofenphos there is a gradual increase in soil microbial populations that use this material as food and eventually break down its control activity. When a second application is made in the same season, microbial populations are high enough to degenerate the material rapidly, and very limited control activity results. Thus, only one application per year should be made to prevent this soil resistance from occurring.

AND ONE OUT OF 52

Question: My committee members request that our greens should rival those conditions for the U.S. Open Championship. How can I convince them otherwise? (Connecticut)

Answer: First, the U.S. Open is one week out of 52. Maintaining those conditions for your entire playing season will cause severe stress to the grass plant. Turf will become weak and thin, with untrue surfaces, an increase in disease and weed infestation, followed by compaction problems, bumpiness, and algae. Not to mention financial problems, present and future.

HAVE A SEQUENCE OF BLOOM

Question: My Green Committee Chairman has asked me to plant a perennial border near our golf shop, but I'm not sure what I'll need to plant in order to have something in bloom at all times during the season. Any suggestions? (New York)

Answer: Cornell University offers a publication entitled "Sequence of Bloom," which lists the flowering periods for hundreds of perennials, from March through November. Though developed for New York State, this list would be useful throughout much of the northern part of the United States and Canada. The list is available for \$1.60 from: Distribution Center, 7 Research Park, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14850.