

# TURF TWISTERS

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## APPARENTLY

**Question:** Does 2,4-D have an accumulated adverse effect on soil microorganisms essential to soil fertility? (Wisconsin)

**Answer:** Apparently not. Studies in Saskatchewan conducted by Ag Canada scientists and reported recently by *Crops and Soils* magazine, indicate that 35 *annual* applications to experimental plots had no effect on the mineralization of nitrogen or the microbial biomass. There was some temporary depression of enzyme activity and respiration, but they were slight when compared to changes caused by normal weather stresses.

## NOT EVERY MEDIA REPORT

**Question:** I have heard that a fungicide sprayed on golf greens caused the death of a Navy lieutenant a few years ago. Has this been proved beyond any doubt? (Pennsylvania)

**Answer:** It has absolutely not been proved at all. In fact, death was caused by toxic epidermal necrolysis, a condition not associated with the fungicide. The matter is going to court where, the manufacturer states, the media's reports are wrong "and this will be clearly and unequivocally demonstrated."

## IS FACTUAL

**Question:** Milorganite, a natural organic nitrogen fertilizer frequently used on golf courses, has been reported by the press to be linked to Lou Gehrig's disease: amyotrophic lateral sclerosis — ALS. Has this been proved beyond any doubt? (Indiana)

**Answer:** It has absolutely not been proved at all. In fact, federal and state (Wisconsin) health officials have stated there is no connection and no need to study further the relationship between Milorganite and ALS. The federal and state epidemiologists criticized the ALS researcher who made the "suggestion" in the first place.