

# TURF TWISTERS

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## THE HENBIT

**Question:** I do not overseed, and winter annuals, including *Poa annua*, henbit, chickweed, parsley-piert, to name a few, have been a problem in my bermudagrass fairways and roughs each year. They die in the summer, but the golf course looks terrible in the spring with these weeds. What should I do? (Florida)

**Answer:** There are several excellent chemicals for controlling these winter annuals, either preemergently or post-emergently. Kerb, simazine, or pendimethalin are three very good preemergent herbicides, and atrazine, paraquat, diquat, or glyphosate are very good post-emergent herbicides. Check with your Green Section office for the rates, timing, and restrictions for these chemicals in your area, and have a weed-free golf course next spring.

## THE SIDEWALK

**Question:** I'm always concerned about spreading salt on the sidewalks and patios around my clubhouse. The salt is hard on the concrete as well as on the grass and shrubs. Any thoughts on alternative materials? (Pennsylvania)

**Answer:** Yes, try urea; it melts ice and snow just fine. You may see some extra greening and growth of the grass along the sidewalks in the spring, which isn't all that bad, but that is its only effect.

## AND HELP IS NEEDED

**Question:** Out of financial necessity, ours is a very low budget course (less than \$100,000 annually). What is the minimum number of employees we should maintain throughout the year? (Kansas)

**Answer:** The absolute minimum should be a superintendent, mechanic, and foreman. These three key individuals should remain on the payroll throughout the year. They should be supplemented during the growing and playing season with a minimum of two general-purpose laborers. Courses with such low budgets should concentrate their maintenance efforts solely on the playing areas, and not spend valuable time on remote roughs, ornamentals, or course construction projects and the like.