

# TURF TWISTERS

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## CAN COMPUTERS BE USED

**Question:** With all this talk about computers on the golf course, are there any precautions particular to the use of a computer in our shop? (Kansas)

**Answer:** Yes. Voltage surges and dust are the two biggest enemies of a computer in the maintenance building. Unless you have voltage problems, a simple surge protector should protect your machine. You should also insure the computer is on a separate circuit from the welder, air compressor, battery chargers, or any other high-amperage device. Dust covers, good housekeeping, and an occasional vacuuming of the chassis will keep the computer clean. As always, back up your valuable data regularly.

## TO FINANCE EQUIPMENT

**Question:** I am the newly appointed finance chairman at my club. Is there a simple way for us to plan capital equipment expenditures on the golf course? (Vermont)

**Answer:** One simple method that has worked well for many clubs is to allocate an amount equal to 10% of the annual operating budget for new capital equipment expenditures. Repairs and maintenance should be different line items in the budget.

## AND DETERMINE THE QUALITY OF OUR SAND

**Question:** We're starting a sand topdressing program for the greens at our course. If the sand falls roughly within the particle size range recommended for building a USGA green, can I assume it will be satisfactory for a sand topdressing program? (New York)

**Answer:** Not necessarily. Though most sands that fall within the particle size guidelines will be suitable, some may contain just the right combination of fine, medium, and coarse particles which can actually inhibit water infiltration. We recommend that a reputable soils laboratory be consulted before an unknown sand is used for topdressing or soil modification. The sand should also be checked for pH.