

TURF TWISTERS

YES! THE LIBRARY OFFERS

Question: I note with considerable interest the USGA Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) is now available and on line in its home at the Michigan State University Library. But does it contain any information on warm-season grasses, warm-season research, and warm-season management? (Georgia)

Answer: Absolutely yes! The TGIF library has the latest research and reference information on all turfgrasses and related subjects. Write today:

Turfgrass Information Center
Library W — 212
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824

for complete details. Whether you are in Anchorage, San Juan, Bangor, or Pukalani, TGIF is ready to serve your turfgrass informational needs.

A GOOD CONTACT

Question: My golfers *hate* overseeding time, with all the disruption to the playing surface. Just how important is it to really tear into the thatch and soil when renovating and overseeding a fairway, or any area for that matter? Am I doing more tearing and disruption than I really have to do? (Kentucky)

Answer: No. Research data as well as experience has established the absolute necessity of making good soil-to-seed contact for a good overseeding catch. This small fact oftentimes just is not appreciated as being perhaps the single most important factor in determining the success (or failure) of an overseeding program. Perhaps to better inform your golfers, remind them that with the high cost of seed, fertilizer, water, labor, and equipment necessary in the overseeding process, the better the catch, the less overseeding that ultimately may have to be done, and the less total disruption to the playing surface there may have to be into the future. No one likes the inconvenience, but during the overseeding process it is necessary and so very important to place the seed through the thatch and into the soil. Thus, a little inconvenience in the short term can mean a real long-term improvement in the quality of turf to be renovated and overseeded.

FOR BUNKER SAND INFORMATION

Question: This fall we are replacing all the sand in our sand bunkers. Are there USGA specifications to be followed concerning bunker sand? (Texas)

Answer: Though there are no formal USGA specifications for bunker sand, there are guidelines you should follow when choosing sand.

- (1) Minimum of 65% sand particle size between .25mm and 1.0mm.
- (2) Ideally 100% between this range — .25mm and 1.0mm.
- (3) Sharp, angular sand preferred to round particle shape.
- (4) Light colored, not white sand.
- (5) Minimal amount of silt and clay, determined through soil testing lab analysis.
- (6) Silica sand rather than calcareous sand.