

# TURF TWISTERS

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## MAY I ASK A QUESTION?

**Question:** Do these "Turf Twisters" actually come from your readers or does someone make them up? (A skeptic from Ohio)

**Answer:** In one form or another, all of these questions do come from our readers. Green Section agronomists cover a lot of ground during the year and receive hundreds of questions. The best ones we record and pass on . . . just like yours! Any more questions?

## HOW CAN I KEEP GOOD HELP

**Question:** I usually hire several college students each summer to work on the golf course, but many times they leave for school or vacation earlier than I anticipate. This leaves me short-handed just at the time when I need the help to aerify greens, renovate fairways, etc. Any ideas? (New Jersey)

**Answer:** Many clubs have had good luck keeping seasonal workers by offering a bonus or deferred compensation to those who stay on the job until the date that is agreed upon at the time they are hired. A lump-sum bonus can be an especially attractive incentive to college students who are preparing to go back to school.

## TO SOD THE BARE SPOTS

**Question:** Our old *Poa*/bent greens suffered a great deal of turf loss last year. Unfortunately, we do not have a nursery and are facing the spring with large bare areas on several greens. If we sod the bad sections, the texture and color of the new bentgrass sod will look very different from the long-established *Poa*/bent turf on our greens. What should we do? (Virginia)

**Answer:** Assuming that all of your greens are constructed similarly, one solution would be to strip the sod off your worst green and use the best material to sod the bare areas on your other greens. This would enable you to match soil and grass types while avoiding distinct patches of different turf. You could then rebuild or regrass the remaining green. It would not look like the other greens, but at least it would present a uniform appearance.