

TURF TWISTERS

THE GREEN SECTION DOES NOT APPROVE

Question: A local supplier is selling a product he says is “approved by the USGA Green Section.” Does the Green Section formally approve of commercial products? (California)

Answer: Absolutely not! The Green Section neither approves nor disapproves of any commercial product. If you see literature or hear from sales representatives that the Green Section has “approved” of any such product, please contact the USGA or your regional Green Section office.

KEEPING CHAMPIONSHIP CONDITIONS

Question: My Green Chairman has requested that our greens should be kept in U.S. Open condition throughout the year. I’m concerned that such a policy could lead to turf problems. What do you think? (New Jersey)

Answer: You are absolutely right. It would be foolhardy to try to maintain extremely fast, firm greens throughout the season. Courses playing host to the Open or other major events try to have their greens peak for that one week, and without exception they back off the intensive management program as soon as the event is over. It’s fine to peak your greens for a couple of special club events during the year, weather permitting, but trying to maintain consistently very fast greens usually results in severe disease problems or turf failure.

WHEN TRYING TO MINIMIZE LIABILITY

Question: We make a concerted effort to follow all regulations when using pesticides. Nevertheless, as the golf course superintendent at my club I am concerned about liability. Any suggestions?

Answer: First of all, check with your club to be sure you are covered under their insurance. Also, make it a practice always to have two individuals present whenever pesticides are mixed and used. Both should sign off on the appropriate forms concerning the mixing and application. Finally, be sure all of your pesticide equipment is maintained in “new” condition. Document all repair and calibration efforts as well as actual use.