

TURF TWISTERS

TO MINIMIZE DAMAGE

Question: When mowing a green with a triplex putting greensmower, is it better to make the first pass through the center of the green or near the edge? (Oregon)

Answer: Because of the potential for hydraulic leaks following a long transport from green to green, it is always better to make the first pass with a triplex mower near the edge of the green. If a leak occurs, resodding could then be done in non-cupping areas, rather than down the center of the green.

HAVE YOUR WATER TESTED

Question: During the past few years the quality of our irrigation water supply has gradually declined. The sodium absorption ratio (SAR) has been steadily increasing. In discussing this problem with other local superintendents, I find some are now injecting acid into their irrigation systems to improve water quality. How can I determine if acid injection can be of benefit in my situation? (Arizona)

Answer: To evaluate the potential benefits of acid injection, send a water sample to an irrigation water testing laboratory. They can measure the sodium absorption ratio and the adjusted sodium absorption ratio after acid injection. The difference between these two values is a result of neutralizing the bicarbonates that would otherwise react (precipitate) with calcium and magnesium, and raise the sodium absorption ratio. If the adjusted value is considerably lower, there might be some benefit to injecting acid into your irrigation system.

AND TOPDRESS WHEN THE GRASS GROWS

Question: We topdress our greens regularly between late spring and early fall, but we see dark layers develop like annual rings on trees when profiles of the greens are viewed. Why? (Wisconsin)

Answer: There is strong grass growth in the spring and in the fall, outside of your topdressing period. It will help to add light dressings during the mid-spring and fall growth periods. Topdressing should follow the pattern set by the rate of grass growth, keeping in mind the slowdown of growth during hot weather.