

TURF TWISTERS

GO "LOW-TECH"

Question: I have a new, well-designed irrigation system but still have dry areas on knolls in some greens and fairways. Any ideas? (Michigan)

Answer: Go Low-Tech and occasionally hand water the dry areas. When used in conjunction with spot aeration and wetting agent applications, this simple technique should help you overcome the dryness problems on these difficult-to-wet knolls.

TO REJUVENATE YOUR GREENS

Question: A local club fumigated their *Poa annua* greens a year ago and replanted them to creeping bentgrass. Now my membership wants me to do the same thing. Should we? (Ohio)

Answer: Quite a few clubs across the country have followed the regrassing procedure you mentioned, and it has proven to be a very effective alternative to rebuilding if certain criteria are met. It is only appropriate if the grass growing environment is reasonably good. Good internal drainage, air circulation, and sunlight penetration are musts. Without these three items, the likelihood of failure, even with the right grass, will be high. Regrassing is much cheaper than complete reconstruction, possibly as little as one tenth the cost. Thus, if the greens are structurally sound and you just want to replace the turf, regrassing may be worth considering.

AND CONTROL TRAFFIC

Question: We maintain a public golf course that receives more than 100,000 rounds of golf annually. There are quite a few thin, bare spots on the course, but some of our golfers want "country club" conditions like those seen on television each week. What is the single best way for us to provide better turf for our golfers? (California)

Answer: First of all, remind the golfers that the courses playing host to the weekly televised events often spend months or longer preparing for these tournaments. To answer your question, though, the single best way to improve the turf on your course would be to institute a good traffic control program. For many courses, this involves stakes, ropes, signs, painted lines, curbing, and a good marshalling program.