

TURF TWISTERS

WHAT DO I NEED?

Question: Do I need a computer to utilize the information contained in the TGIF library? (Pennsylvania)

Answer: No, you do not. In fact, you can ask for a literature search simply by calling (517) 353-7209 and speaking with Carol Case or Peter Cookingham. You can also send requests by mail to:

Turfgrass Information Center
Michigan State University
Library W-212
East Lansing, MI 48824-1048

The library is there to serve, for a nominal fee, anyone in the industry who needs information. TGIF is more than electronic: There are people there who are ready and willing to help fulfill your information needs, whether you have a computer or not.

FOR GREAT GREENS

Question: Is USGA "spec" green construction really necessary for bermudagrass greens? (Florida)

Answer: Though Tifdwarf and Tifgreen bermudagrasses are aggressive turf types, and thus more tolerant of a poorer growing medium compared to the bentgrasses, present-day player demands are pushing the limits of adaptation of the bermudas. Therefore, if top-quality putting green conditioning and a healthy turf are to be successfully maintained, proper construction is absolutely essential. The specifications for a method of putting green construction developed and recommended by the Green Section offer the highest degree of assurance that the type of green conditioning desired can be provided, regardless of the type of grass selected.

BESIDES PRUNING TREES

Question: Our club is considering a major tree pruning and removal program which we hope to initiate during the winter months when regular operations are slow. Concerns were raised, however, as to the effect of winter pruning on the trees. When is the best time to prune trees, and is winter pruning detrimental? (New York)

Answer: Light or remedial tree pruning can be completed anytime. However, pruning trees in early to mid-spring assures rapid wound healing during the first season. Golf courses frequently do initiate pruning and removal programs during winter months for ease of operation and limited interference from play. Generally, winter programs can be carried out successfully with no adverse effects on the trees. In areas where temperatures plummet below 0° F for prolonged periods, tissue damage adjacent to pruning wounds has been reported on several conifer species. It is not recommended to prune spring flowering trees during the winter season, since many flower buds are removed. Pruning each species immediately following full bloom will promote its flowering next season. Finally, avoid late-winter pruning of maples, birch, elm, or other species which bleed profusely. Bleeding can usually be avoided by scheduling the operation for early winter or following leaf break.