

TURF TWISTERS

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR

Question: It seems as though the golf industry is being bombarded with new chemicals at an ever-increasing rate. How do we sort out all of the "miracle products" that are flooding the turf industry? (Missouri)

Answer: Try not to be swayed too much by testimonials. Look for solid research and field testing to back up any claims being made. If you want to experiment on your golf course, set up an objective comparison and be sure to run a control or untreated plot with the test. When running comparisons, compare like products. Comparing a soil amendment to an unamended soil provides only limited information. A better approach would be to compare different soil amendments side-by-side. As always, be sure to follow the label directions.

TO PAINT

Question: I just heard about someone "painting" his greens instead of overseeding during the winter. What kind of equipment do you need for this? (Georgia)

Answer: As a general rule of thumb, five to ten gallons of latex turf paint is mixed with 100 gallons of water. This will cover approximately 20,000 square feet, in two directions. Depending on the size of the job, a hand mister, a backpack sprayer, or a boom sprayer may be used for applying the paint. Apply the paint mixture in two different directions, just as if you were double cutting a green, including a cleanup round. The paint will last for approximately six weeks, so in most areas two applications per winter will be necessary.

No two golf courses are alike. Before you decide to use paint, take into account all the variables. For more information about painting greens, contact your Green Section regional office.

OR TO OVERSEED

Question: For many years we have successfully overseeded our bermudagrass greens for the winter with a perennial ryegrass blend. Over the past few years, our golfers have played other courses in the area that have changed to a bentgrass overseeding program. A number of requests have been made to make a change at our course. Should we? (Florida)

Answer: In South Florida, a number of courses have been overseeding their greens with bentgrass varieties for the past 10 to 15 years. Bent overseedings are slow to establish in the fall and are hard to transition out in late spring. Due to these problems, *Poa trivialis*, either alone or in combination with bent, has been rapidly gaining popularity for winter overseeding of bermudagrass greens. It provides an excellent putting surface without the establishment and transition problems of the bents; however, wear and heat tolerance can be limiting factors with *Poa trivialis*. Before changing a successful program, experiment with two or three overseeding combinations. This is the only way to determine what is best for your particular conditions.