

# TURF TWISTERS

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## YOU CAN'T AFFORD

**Question:** Our club says they can't afford to pay my way to the national superintendent's conference each year. How can I stay up to date with current issues in the industry? (Texas)

**Answer:** If there is any way you can afford to attend the national conference, it is well worth the trip. Otherwise, make a point to attend local and state meetings and participate in your state turfgrass association. It also will help to subscribe to the many professional and trade publications available.

You should also subscribe to the USGA Turfgrass Information File (TGIF). Call (517) 353-7209 or any Green Section Office for further details. If you have a personal computer and a modem, you have two more options. You can directly access TGIF and you can also sign on to Turfbyte — the superintendents' bulletin board system. Turfbyte is managed by Duane Patton, out of Lawrence, Kansas. Contact Duane at (913) 842-0146.

## NOT TO EDUCATE

**Question:** My Green Committee changes every year and a new group of people need to be educated about our golf course management practices. This education process can take up to one year, then starts all over again. Is there any way to expedite this process? (Arizona)

**Answer:** Many superintendents attend field days during the year to learn more about what's going on in the field. Why not conduct a field day for your Green Committee? Give them a tour of your maintenance facility, have your staff demonstrate the various pieces of equipment, and operate the irrigation system so they see firsthand how you maintain your golf course. The Green Section also publishes a booklet entitled *The USGA Green Section Guide*, which explains the role of the Green Committee and how they can better serve the club. For a copy, contact the USGA (908-234-2300) or your regional Green Section office.

## YOURSELF FOR THE FUTURE

**Question:** How do we sort out all the "miracle products" that are flooding the turf industry? (New York)

**Answer:** Try not to be overly swayed by testimonials. Look for solid university testing. If you want to experiment on your golf course, set up an objective comparison and be sure to run a control (untreated) plot. If you wish to run comparisons, try to compare like products. Comparing a soil amendment to an unamended soil provides only a limited amount of information. A better approach would be to compare a number of different soil amendments at varying rates, side by side, along with the untreated control.