

TURF TWISTERS

IDENTIFY

Question: What is the best way to submit disease samples to a plant pathologist for identification? (Mississippi)

Answer: Your sampling technique is important for the pathologist to accurately diagnose the problem. The sample should include a portion of the diseased area *and* a portion of the adjoining healthy turf. A 4"-diameter plug intact with the roots and the above-ground plant material is preferred. It is also helpful to submit a snapshot of the diseased area. It is very important to let the pathologist have an idea of what the symptoms look like.

THE END RESULT

Question: We have a five-year-old golf course that needs extensive tree removal. The Green Committee has refused to allow us to remove any trees. Any ideas to help us get past this logjam? (Washington)

Answer: Quite often the golf course architect will leave trees on a site for the first few years to get feedback from the players. It sounds like this would be a good time to bring back the original golf course architect to discuss the tree situation in detail with the Green Committee and/or Board of Directors. This checkup can go a long way in educating players about the negative impact of too many trees. Using an outside expert is a very effective method to sell good ideas.

FOR BERMUDAGRASS SPRIGGING RATES

Question: We are in the planning stages of completing a renovation program on our bermudagrass greens, and are uncertain about sprigging rates for the regrassing operation. What sprigging rate do you recommend? (Florida)

Answer: Recommendations for sprigging rates for bermudagrass greens are made in bushels per 1,000 sq. ft. Typically they fall within a range of 20 to 30 bushels per 1,000 sq. ft. for the initial sprigging operation on new greens. Usually 20 to 25 bushels per 1,000 sq. ft. is used to establish bermudagrass greens; however, when time is a factor in opening the greens for play, the higher end of the sprigging range is utilized.