

TURF TWISTERS

TODAY'S DETECTED DIFFICULTIES

Question: How effective are the new disease detection kits now available for several major turfgrass diseases? (Georgia)

Answer: The kits are very good at allowing the golf course superintendent to confirm what disease is occurring on the turf. However, it isn't advisable to use the kits as your sole method for diagnosing the disease or to predict future diseases. The most reliable method is to identify turf disease using a microscope. A book by Patricia Sanders of Penn State, called *The Microscope in Turfgrass Disease Diagnosis*, shows golf course superintendents how to use the microscope and identify turf fungi using blades of the ailing grass.

OF LONG-RANGE GOALS

Question: Why is it important for our golf course to have Turf Advisory Service visits each season, rather than in alternate years? (Tennessee)

Answer: Once a plan is established by the USGA agronomist, the golf course superintendent, and the green committee, annual evaluations are recommended. This not only provides the course with short-term technical information, but it also allows for goals to be established that focus on the long-term objectives of the course.

IDENTIFY FUTURE COMPLEXITIES

Question: I have been approached by a group of investors who want to begin building a golf course in 1996. Unfortunately, I don't believe they understand the environmental complexities facing golf course construction and maintenance today. Is there a publication available that will help educate them on these crucial issues before they invest their money? (Texas)

Answer: Yes. In 1992, the USGA published a comprehensive book entitled *Golf Course Management and Construction: Environmental Issues*, edited by Dr. James C. Balogh and William J. Walker. It covers a wide range of environmental topics, including conservation of water resources, impacts of fertilizers and pesticides, wildlife and wetlands management, and integrated pest management. This 928-page book is available from the USGA Order Department (1-800-336-4446) for \$69.95 plus shipping/handling.