

# TURF TWISTERS

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## YOUR BEST CHOICE

**Question:** I have just started working at a new course with a history of heavy crabgrass infestation on the fairways. What is the best way to evaluate the numerous products available for crabgrass control in my area? (Kansas)

**Answer:** There is always a great temptation to use the product that is the least expensive per treated acre. In this age of new environmental awareness, however, you may wish to evaluate products based on their environmental hazard. This would include a careful examination of a product's volatility, solubility, soil sorption, half-life, SCS (Soil Conservation Service) rating, and GUS (Groundwater Ubiquity Score) rating. The January 1995 issue of the *Green Section Record* provides an excellent table as a good starting point for some of this information. If your research leads you to an unfamiliar product, consult with local or regional authorities regarding product performance before application.

## FOR OLD GREENS

**Question:** My greens are primarily *Poa annua* and have become a management problem through the stressful periods of the summer months. Would it be helpful to overseed with new creeping bentgrass varieties? (California)

**Answer:** Overseeding with creeping bentgrass during the ideal growing months may improve your greens significantly. Initially, seeding on monthly intervals with one-half to one pound per thousand square feet of creeping bentgrass will be required to establish a noticeable population. To insure seed-to-soil contact, schedule overseeding in conjunction with vertical mowing, spiking, sand topdressing, and/or aerification, if possible. For a fair evaluation of this program, overseeding should be carried out for a minimum of one complete growing season.

## COULD BE *POA ANNUA*

**Question:** I have 18 *Poa annua* putting greens and my green committee just gave me authorization to build a putting green nursery. If I establish the nursery with creeping bentgrass I'm afraid that the turf will not match the texture and consistency of my greens. Also, I won't be able to use the nursery to accurately evaluate fertilizers or pest control materials prior to wholesale application. Is it possible to establish a *Poa annua* nursery? (Washington)

**Answer:** It has been reported that some distributors are selling *Poa annua* seed. However, we are not aware of a source of good quality, certified *Poa annua* seed. Therefore, there is a risk that the seed you purchase will be inferior in quality, consistency, weed seed content, and general performance. After building a root zone, the best method to establish a representative nursery would be to collect aerification cores from the existing 18 greens and spread them over the nursery site two cores deep and then roll the area. If you are currently overseeding your greens with creeping bentgrass, you may also wish to overseed the nursery with 1 or 2 pounds per thousand square feet before rolling the cores.