

# TURF TWISTERS

## GOOD TECHNIQUES

**Question:** I have a problem. Each summer the #1 blemish I have on my putting greens is scalped plugs. I have tried everything — different hole cutters, different hole changing techniques; nothing seems to solve the problem completely. Any thoughts? (Virginia)

**Answer:** One of the most common problems USGA agronomists see is high and low hole plugs. It is a common problem that golf course superintendents seem to solve, to the extent they can, in different ways. The most common solution is to develop the expertise of the individual changing the holes. It is an art, no matter what hole changing technique is utilized. It takes time to properly change a hole. Delegate the job to one of your best employees, preferably one who also plays golf. Do not have different people do this important chore just because they are available. Walk your greens, and if you see high or low plugs, send that one individual back out to level them up. We will wager that after a few trips around the golf course rechanging holes, especially on a hot afternoon, extra care will be exercised to do the job right the first time.

## SOLVE PROBLEMS WITH

**Question:** What is the best way to store expensive bentgrass seed? (Georgia)

**Answer:** The key concept for seed storage is to keep the combination of temperature and humidity, when added together, below 100. Obviously, this is not easy to accomplish anywhere. Ideally, store your expensive bentgrass seed in a cooler or freezer. This not only keeps the seed viable, but also solves the usual mouse problems.

## DRAINAGE ISSUES

**Question:** When is the best time of year to install fairway drainage? (Utah)

**Answer:** Although the wet areas should be mapped in winter, actual installation should take place in summer. Installing drainage during the dry summer months is faster, results in less damage to the golf course, and reduces the time it takes for the trenches to heal over.