

TURF TWISTERS

RESPECT

Question: I feel like the Rodney Dangerfield of turf maintenance. The golfers never seem to appreciate the many small, but important, in-house construction projects we undertake throughout the season. Any suggestions? (Wisconsin)

Answer: Invest in a regular 35mm or digital camera, and document your projects' progress and results. Take plenty of before and after pictures of construction projects and general improvements on the golf course. A short, well-written story about the project, complete with pictures, can be posted in the pro shop. Include these stories in your newsletter to golfers. If you don't have a newsletter, start one. Your pictures also can be used in presentations to your board and at superintendents meetings, and they also serve as a great supplement for your resume.

SCIENCE-BASED

Question: What are "modified" USGA or "modified" California greens? (Louisiana)

Answer: Who knows? The word "modified" can mean anything and often does, and technically if the greens are modified, they are not USGA or California greens. There are two well-established, science-based methods of green construction – the USGA method and the California method. Both methods are agronomically sound – assuming they are followed. Modifications of either method are discouraged since such modifications are seldom (if ever) based on research and thus can yield poor results. The USGA method can be found at www.usga.org/green/coned or by calling any Green Section office. A document illustrating the California method can be obtained by calling 800-994-8849 and asking for publication number 21448.

TECHNOLOGIES

Question: Our course is in a very windy area, and we tend to lose a lot of bunker sand during wind storms. Any ideas on how to keep the sand in our bunkers? (Nevada)

Answer: Consider setting up a special irrigation program to water the bunkers to keep the sand moist and reduce wind erosion. The best approach is to use a combination of the part-circle heads pointing away from greens, along with the heads covering the putting green banks. Syringe cycles can be programmed for five to ten minutes when wind speeds exceed 15 to 20 mph. Later, you can fine-tune the system by adding smaller landscape sprinklers in key locations to avoid over-watering surrounding areas.