

# TURF TWISTERS

## REMOVING BERMUDAGRASS

**Question:** Common bermudagrass exists in spots in our putting greens. We want to remove this sod and replace it with Tifgreen from our nursery. How much soil do we have to take out to insure against the burmuda coming back from the roots? (TENNESSEE)

**Answer:** Contrary to popular belief, bermuda is not able to regenerate growth from its severed "roots." The regrowth comes from the underground fleshy stems called rhizomes. In closely cut bermudagrass, these rhizomes are rarely found below 2 inches.

In many cases sod is removed to a sufficient depth to take out all the growing points, but the *area* removed is too small. The growing points of underground stems frequently grow underground for a considerable distance beyond the edge of the visible top growth. If these are cut off and left in the ground, the bermudagrass will become reestablished in a relatively short time.

## PROBLEM WITH ALGAE

**Question:** Algae has been quite a problem on our greens. It starts as a green scum in thin areas and then becomes black and crusty. (OKLAHOMA)

**Answer:** Algae is almost always present in areas where turf is thin and where water remains on the soil surface. Thick turf areas, and areas where water drains off or infiltrates readily, rarely are affected by algae.

A common treatment is a light dusting of hydrated lime. About 2 or 3 pounds per 1,000 square feet is enough. This appears to dry the surface somewhat. Perhaps the very sudden change in pH just at the surface layer where the algae is growing is enough to stop its growth.

Another treatment that is giving good results is an application of zineb. This product is primarily a fungicide, but it appears to be a very effective algicide as well.