

TURF TWISTERS

TO FACILITATE HEALING

Question: An extensive tree trimming program is scheduled for my course this winter. What can I do to minimize the healing time? (Connecticut)

Answer: In the United States, dormant pruning is considered best, but it should be delayed until after the probability of extremely low temperatures. When you remove a large limb or a major branch, do not leave a long stub or cut the limb off flush with the trunk. Sever the branch or limb just past the natural swelling or collar that is usually at the point of branching. This will produce a smaller wound, and by leaving the collar intact, facilitate healing. Natural disease inhibitors seem to be in this area that will help prevent disease or infection at the wound site.

AND TO IMPROVE A RELATIONSHIP;

Question: I am the new green committee chairman at my club, but I am not familiar with the responsibilities of my new job. Do you have any information that may be of help? (Arkansas)

Answer: We surely do, and we urge you to write to your regional Green Section office (addresses found on the title page, inside front cover) requesting "The USGA Green Section Guide." The guide will introduce you to your new duties, and present new ideas for developing a great golf course and a great working relationship with your golf course superintendent.

READ CAREFULLY. FOLLOW DIRECTIONS!

Question: I've heard the USGA Specifications for Putting Green Construction call for a mixture of 80 percent sand and 20 percent peat. Is this correct? (Virginia)

Answer: It is amazing how the Green Section Specifications are so misunderstood. There are *NO* recommended set percentages of sand, soil, or peat. The Specifications are based on differing ranges of bulk density, porosity, moisture retention and the principles of a perched water table. They are designed to accommodate most locally available sands, soils, and organic materials, but they must first undergo a physical soil analysis by an experienced laboratory to determine the proper critical ratios of the available materials to be used.

You will be interested to know a new revised publication of the USGA Green Section Specifications will soon be available from all Green Section regional offices. Except for a few minor, subtle changes, they remain exactly as originally published in 1960. The new publication offers greater detail of the steps involved and warns there is no such thing as a "modified USGA green."