

TURF TWISTERS

THERE'S NO DEBATE

Question: We have had a running debate on the placement of tee markers. How far apart and how close to the back of the tee should they be placed? Also, is there such a thing as an "illegal tee marker location"? (New Jersey)

Answer: The Rules of golf describe the teeing ground as being "a rectangular area two club-lengths in depth, the front and sides of which are defined by two tee markers." As detailed in the USGA publication *How to Conduct a Championship*, it is recommended that tee markers be placed 5 to 6 paces apart. But because tee size and wear problems may make these recommendations impractical or impossible, consider them as guidelines and do your best to adhere to them whenever possible. There is no such thing as an *illegal* tee marker location.

USGA publications are available through the USGA Order Department (800-336-4446).

TURFGRASS NURSERIES

Question: I am planning to construct a putting green nursery later this year. Do you have any guidelines regarding how big it should be and what kind of materials I should use for the construction of the root zone? (Utah)

Answer: As a general rule, most putting green nurseries are about the size of the two largest greens on the golf course, or roughly 10,000 to 15,000 square feet. To prevent soil layering, the material you select for the root zone should match as closely as possible the material found on your greens. The sand currently used for topdressing the greens on your course should work well for this purpose.

MAKE PERFECT SENSE

Question: It is easy to confuse yards and tons when ordering sand for projects. Is there an easy way to keep these straight? (Texas)

Answer: It just so happens that a cubic foot of dry sand weighs about 100 pounds. Since there are 27 cubic feet in a cubic yard, one cubic yard of sand weighs about 2700 pounds — well over a ton. If you divide 2700 pounds by 2000 pounds, you get the figure 1.35. Therefore, to convert yards to tons, multiply the number of yards by 1.35.