TURF TWISTERS

SPECIFY MEASUREMENTS

Question: We are preparing to replant our bermudagrass greens. In the process of requesting bids for the sprigs, we have run into a lot of confusion regarding which type of bushel measurement to use. What is the difference between a *Texas bushel* and a *Georgia bushel*? (Texas)

Answer: Confusion is the right word. No one is exactly sure how, but at least two different bushel measurements have evolved. The *Texas bushel* is the same as the U.S. Customary System of measurement with a volume of 2150 cubic inches or 1.24 cubic feet. In contrast, the *Georgia bushel* provides a volume of sprigs of .4 cubic feet or ⅓ of that of the Texas bushel. The Georgia bushel is also occasionally referred to as the *ISB* or *Industry Standard Bushel.*

The Texas bushel is most often used in the western part of the U.S., while the Georgia bushel is most often specified in the eastern part of the country (oddly enough, the Georgia bushel is the standard in Texas). Planting rates and bid proposals obviously must be adjusted to which bushel is specified (be sure to specify one or the other). A typical planting rate for greens is 12 to 15 Texas bushels per thousand square feet, and these numbers would be tripled to 36 to 45 for Georgia bushels.

TO ESTABLISH

Question: Last year, we tried establishing native grasses in a few locations of our secondary rough. Instead of an attractive stand of grasses, we wound up with an unsightly weed patch that was not well received by the golfers. What went wrong? (New York)

Answer: More than likely, much of the problem can be traced to establishment. Seed bed preparation should involve minimal or no tillage, and drill seeding in early fall is preferred. This approach will reduce weed seed germination, and mowing these areas twice a year for the first two years will help control broadleaf weeds. Native grasses generally take two to three years to become fully established; thus, some patience is needed. Hard fescue can be used as a nurse crop during establishment, but keep seeding rates low (25 lb/acre) to avoid dominating the stand and choking out the native grasses.

PERMANENTLY SIZED TEES

Question: We are rebuilding tees and are looking for an easy way to establish a permanent marker for the corners of the tees so that the contour of the tees will not be lost. (Alabama)

Answer: Mark the corners of the tees with a piece of rebar driven into each corner. To prevent damage to mowing equipment, create a PVC sleeve to be driven over the rebar. Both the rebar and the PVC sleeve should be flush with the soil surface. Cap the PVC sleeve with a smooth, rounded cap. Each spring, these points can be located and the mowing patterns on the tee can be reestablished.