

TURF TWISTERS

REEL INFORMATION

Question: Our golf course owns a set of vertical mower attachments that can be mounted on a triplex greens mower. Our superintendent says he needs a set of grooming reels to better manage our greens. What is the difference between these attachments, and if we buy grooming reels can we sell the vertical mower attachments? (Delaware)

Answer: Think of it this way. The vertical mowers help manage the organic accumulations in the greens while the grooming reels help fine-tune the green for play. Both attachments should be part of the golf course maintenance equipment arsenal to manage the greens. Vertical mowers often are used in the spring and fall, while grooming attachments are used during the summer to enhance ball roll. When these techniques are combined in a timely fashion, a dramatic effect can be realized.

FOR A BETTER INFORMED

Question: Our golf course has always found great benefit in the services of the USGA Green Section Turf Advisory Service and subscription to the *Green Section Record* magazine. Are there other Green Section services that we can take advantage of? (Vermont)

Answer: Yes, the Green Section is constantly updating the USGA Website with new information, including a new feature this year, regional updates. The regional updates are written by the Green Section agronomists and highlight what is happening in the eight Green Section regions. Visit the USGA home page at www.usga.org/green to view the regional updates, research highlights, construction information, *Green Section Record* articles, and other information. Each spring, the USGA Green Section also conducts regional conferences throughout the United States. Check with your regional agronomist, visit the Website, or call the USGA headquarters for the regional conferences in your area.

GREEN COMMITTEE

Question: We realize the importance of continuity between the golf course superintendent and the chair of the Green Committee. A new chair each year is clearly bad for continuity. How long would you suggest a person chair the Green Committee, and how can the transition be softened? (Kentucky)

Answer: Ideally, a green chair would serve for three to five years. As you pointed out, yearly terms of service compromise continuity. Equally, too long a term can create problems as well. Have the next chair serve at least one year on the committee under the leadership of the existing chair before making a change. This overlap can improve the transition.

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