

Turf Twisters

Q: Our course has just hooked up to a recycled water source. How often should we be testing water quality? (Nevada)

A: Initially, for the first two to three years it would be wise to test quarterly to monitor any fluctuations of quality that may result due to seasonal flow and water use variations in your municipality's reclamation plant. Once you feel confident that the quality is remaining relatively stable throughout your irrigation



season, you can consider reducing the frequency of testing to annually, during

the month of peak irrigation demand.

Q: I am a new member of our Green Committee with little experience in golf course maintenance, but a keen interest in understanding the operation. Can you give one or two good sources of information for a Green Committee neophyte? (Idaho)

A: Although there are many different publications available, two specific sources are recommended. *A Guide for Green Committee Members* is an outstanding source to understand your responsibilities as a member of the

Green Committee. If you wish to get a more in-depth view of golf course maintenance, try the newly revised *Turf Management for Golf Courses* by Dr. James Beard and the Green Section staff. This all-inclusive book will

answer almost every question you may have concerning golf course maintenance. Both publications are available by contacting the USGA Order Department at 1-800-336-4446.

Q: Our superintendent always places the tee markers in the rough, outside of the tee box. He claims that it is more efficient for the person mowing tees in order to stay ahead of play in the morning. Is this a violation of the Rules of Golf? (Hawaii)



A: No. The Rules of Golf state that "the 'teeing ground' is the starting place for the hole to be played. It is a rectangular area two club-lengths in depth, the front and the sides of which are defined by the outside limits of two tee markers. A ball is outside the *teeing ground* when all of it lies outside the *teeing ground*." However, it is recommended that tee markers be placed on the

shorter cut tee surface. It is preferable that tee markers be placed about 4-6 yards apart. This helps improve wear distribution on the tee by providing more teeing ground locations, and players will be less likely to inadvertently tee up in front of the tee markers. Finally, your course should consider reviewing its policy of early morning play if there is not enough time allowed to move tee markers.

