

# Turf Twisters

**Q:** Japanese beetles were discovered for the first time last year at my golf course in southern Wisconsin. How many beetle traps will I need to place around my course to prevent injury to turf and ornamental plantings? (Wisconsin)

**A:** Japanese beetles continue to spread slowly and steadily from east to west across Wisconsin and into Minnesota. Unfortunately, the feeding-lure/pheromone traps that are available in many lawn and garden stores do not provide an effective level of control for these



pests on golf courses. In fact, a concentration of traps near the playing surfaces can have the unwanted result of

attracting a damaging population of adult beetles from the neighboring area. However, a high population of adults found in a few well-placed traps on the course would indicate the need to sample fairways and roughs to monitor grub populations later in the season.

**Q:** What do you recommend as the minimum distance for planting trees next to greens? (California)

**A:** As a general rule, trees should not be planted closer than 65 ft. from the edge of a green. This minimizes any potential negative impacts from shade and tree root encroachment. Interference with irrigation patterns is

also reduced, since most golf course sprinklers have a 65 ft. operating radius. Of course, any tree planting close to greens should be carefully scrutinized to avoid future problems with shade and air movement. Contact

your local Green Section agronomist and arrange a Turf Advisory Service visit to evaluate tree planting programs so you can avoid potential problems in the future.

**Q:** After 20+ years of traditional management, I'm in the process of switching to a zone or sectional management concept. Any suggestions? (Georgia)

**A:** An article published in the June 1991 *Green Section Record* discusses this concept. You can request a copy from any Green Section regional office. Also, we can tell you a few things superintendents have learned over the years with this management strategy. No more "I thought someone else was going to get that" or searching through the records to see

who cut that green or changed the hole location. Extra tools are needed so each zone has what it needs. Lock them up or permanently mark them so there is no "borrowing." Zone management is a great system if a superintendent can keep it staffed and have enough equipment to make it work.

