

# Turf Twisters

**Q:** We get dark green dots on our putting greens for several weeks after core aeration. What causes this condition and what can we do about it? (Nevada)

**A:** The green dots are usually a sign that you have excessive thatch and organic matter accumulation at the surface of your greens. Air and water movement through the aeration holes is better compared to the surrounding areas, producing darker, healthier turf over the aeration holes. Consider



accelerating the rate and frequency of aeration and

topdressing over the next year to amend the surface. Also, be sure to fill the aeration holes completely to the surface with sand topdressing to obtain the maximum benefit from your aeration treatments and keep the aeration channels open to the surface.

**Q:** We are experiencing problems maintaining a grass cover on our driving range tee surface. How large does my driving range tee need to be? (Colorado)



**A:** Two pieces of information are needed to answer the question of whether a practice or driving range tee is large enough: 1) Is a routine divot repair and golfer rotation program being followed to ensure timely regrowth of teeing surfaces following golfer use? 2) Is the teeing ground large enough to

allow adequate regrowth for a dense grass teeing surface when the rotation returns to the reseeded areas? If you do not have a routine divot repair and golfer rotation program in place, implement one for at least one full season to see if the tee size is adequate. If you do have a routine divot and golfer rotation in place and still are not able to keep grass cover on the tee surface, then your tee is too small. Two options

are available for gaining additional teeing area. One option is to replace a row of grass with concrete and artificial turf to allow rotation between the grass and artificial surfaces. A second option, provided adequate space is available on site, is to expand the teeing surface area by new construction.

**Q:** I continue to hear more discussions about nematodes and the negative impacts that they may cause on cool-season grasses in more northern climates. I know that nematodes are a significant problem in the South, but how prevalent is the problem further north?

**A:** Opinions vary. More research is being done to determine the impacts of nematodes on cool-season grasses in the North. There is still a lot to learn. If you

believe that nematodes are causing a problem at your course, be sure to send samples from suspicious areas prior to the onset of any symptoms. This will allow

baselines to be established for the various nematode species, and will provide a point of comparison for future tests.

