

Turf Twisters

Q: I've heard from several courses in my area that our regional golf association paid for a Green Section Turf Advisory Service visit for their course. How did they qualify for such a visit, and how can my course receive one? (Ohio)

A: We offer a discount to local and state golf associations that purchase multiple visits. Some associations give a visit to a course as a way of saying "thank you" for hosting an event. In other cases, a Green Section visit has

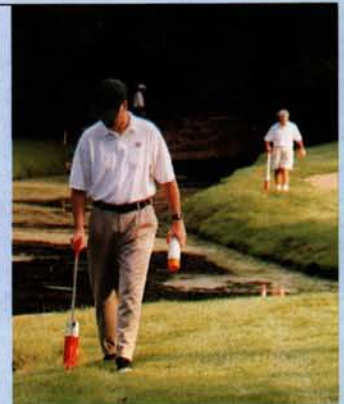
become part of association membership benefits, with each member course receiving an on-site visit every few years. Bottom line, the criteria for distribution are determined by the local association. Visits and reports

are still done in confidence, addressing the specific needs of the recipient course. Talk to your local golf association about receiving a free visit or about the possibility of starting such a program.

Q: Our course has been incorrectly and incompletely marked for years. Who should be assigned to mark the course? (Idaho)

A: The initial marking of the golf course should be a collaborative effort between the golf course superintendent, the golf professional, and knowledgeable representatives from the men's and women's golf associations at your course. Proper marking should include both stakes and paint. Once the course

is marked, the maintenance staff can repaint the lines as they begin to fade. If paint is not used during the initial marking, only those familiar with the Rules of Golf should attempt to replace stakes that have been removed accidentally or intentionally.



Q: We live in a mild climate where golf is played year-round. During the winter, the grass stops growing but generally remains green. Our superintendent stops putting seed in the divot sand mix from November through February; thus we have "mini-bunkers" on the fairways in March. Is it better to replace our divots in the winter, or should 100% sand still be used for divot filling? (Washington)



A: Unless you have a persistent problem with crows flipping the divots in search of food, it is always

best to replace divots during the cooler, wet months in your climate. It will take many weeks or even months for nearby grass to cover a sand-filled divot without seed during the winter. Replacing your divot will generate root growth that will reestablish

the turf within 2-3 weeks. Just as many golf courses change their policies on carts during the winter months (paths only), players should be instructed to replace divots because recovery will be much faster than sand without seed.

