

Turf Twisters

Q: Last spring our roughs were devastated by snow mold because of the unusually lengthy period of snow cover. The matted-down areas seemed to take forever to recover. Any helpful hints to accelerate this process in case it happens this year? (Michigan)

A: Gray snow mold or *Typhula* blight may affect either the leaf tissue or the leaves and the growing points of turf, depending on the severity of the infection. In areas of intermittent snow cover where the damage is limited to leaf tissue, the lesions will recover faster if the affected sites are raked or scarified with a vertical mower. This process will break up the matted, diseased tissue and stimulate the growth of the underlying grass plants.



Q: Does seashore paspalum require salty water (sodium)? (Florida)

A: A misconception is that seashore paspalum needs large amounts of sodium to survive. Although seashore paspalum grows in areas that contain elevated salts better than most turfgrasses, it thrives in *clean* water. Even though research shows that seashore paspalum can take up sodium, it acts like a plant growth regulator and reduces

its growth. If high concentrations of salts are continually applied without periodic flushing, injury can occur.

Q: When is the best time to evaluate shade problems on troubled areas of the course? (West Virginia)

A: By far the best time to evaluate sunlight penetration is early in the morning. The drying effect offered by the light and warmth of the rising sun helps dry the turf early in the morning. This can be a critical component of an integrated pest management program. Also, evaluate sunlight exposure in all seasons. Spring is critical because the sun is moving higher in the sky. In the fall, the sun is actually dropping in the southern sky. Sunlight intensity varies and, as such, the effect on the turf will

vary. For additional information, refer to the May/June 1997 issue of the *Green Section Record*, "Using New Technology to Solve an Old Problem: Trees," by David Oatis.

