

# Turf Twisters

**Q:** Over each of the past few years we have attempted to hire several turf interns to complement our summer staff. The results have been very discouraging. We've had years when not even one turf student was recruited. Do you have any suggestions? (Ohio)

**A:** Try putting together a multimedia presentation (e.g., print, CD, videocassette) for distribution to candidates. The presentation should include course history, maintenance objectives, learning opportunities for the intern, and other pertinent information that will present a complete picture of what the student will experience. In addition, and vital to successful recruiting, visit candidates



at their schools for one-on-one personal contact. The best recruiters get the best

students — go to them; don't expect them to line up at your door.

**Q:** Four of our more shaded and pocketed greens have been performing poorly for some time now. With the expectations for green speed, our mowing heights have gone lower and lower. Our owners believe that rebuilding these greens to USGA specifications will take care of the problem. Any thoughts? (Virginia)

**A:** While rebuilding the greens may improve internal drainage characteristics, it will not address the main problem, which seems to be the poor growing environment. Even if these problem greens are rebuilt, they will likely still be prone to *Poa*

*annua* invasion, loss of density, and increased disease problems without tree and underbrush removal in conjunction with planned reconstruction. If the other greens on the golf course located in better growing environments are performing

well, construction method may not be the problem. Consider removing trees and improving the overall growing environment around these problem greens prior to making the decision to rebuild. It may provide a better return on investment.

**Q:** Is there a recommended overseeding rate for *Poa trivialis* in our part of the country? I have heard of rates from 8 to 15 lbs. per

1,000 ft<sup>2</sup>, but I have also heard that too heavy rates can cause severe spring transition problems for bermudagrass. (Louisiana)

**A:** You are correct that too heavy an application can create spring transition problems. The preferred rate for most all courses in your area is 9 to 10 lbs. *Poa trivialis*

per 1,000 ft<sup>2</sup>, depending on fall traffic. Many courses also find that collars transition better when the putting surface rate is reduced by 25% on the collars.

