

TURF TWISTERS

PATCHING *POA ANNUA* POSES PROBLEMS

Question: We have *Poa annua* greens that occasionally require sodding work due to hydraulic leaks and other problems. Our nursery, however, is comprised of 100 percent bentgrass, and it takes years for sodded areas to blend in well with the *Poa annua*. Any ideas for dealing with this dilemma? (Oregon)

Answer: Remove a strip of *Poa annua* sod from the edge of your practice green or the back edge of one of your regular greens to sod areas damaged by hydraulic leaks or vandalism. Then use the sod from your bentgrass nursery to replace the sod taken from the edge of the regular green. The *Poa annua* sod should blend well with the turf adjacent to the damaged area, while the bentgrass sod will have a minimal effect on the appearance of the edge of the green.

SO PREPARE PROPERLY

Question: Upon assuming the duties of golf course superintendent at a club in Pennsylvania, I learned that they have been subscribers to the Green Section's Turf Advisory Service for many years. In anticipation of the visit during the upcoming year, what should I do to get the most out of it for myself and the club? (Pennsylvania)

Answer: Spending some time in advance to prepare for the visit is the best way to make the most of the Turf Advisory Service. This might include: 1) reviewing the list of topics listed at the bottom of your visit notice for possible discussion subjects; 2) reading the copies of past TAS reports and noting any questions you may have (if past reports cannot be found, simply contact your regional Green Section office for copies); 3) making a list of questions as they arise in the weeks prior to the visit; 4) contacting your club officials, the golf professional, and even your assistant for any questions they might have; 5) encouraging your green chairman and other interested parties to attend the visit if they can. In most cases, a better informed chairman is a more effective advocate for the maintenance program.

WHEN pH LEVELS ARE PERTURBING

Question: The pH of our new high-sand-content green is 8.2. Can this be reduced by making periodic applications of sulfur? (North Dakota)

Answer: Probably not. Many of the sands in your part of the country and in many other areas contain a great deal of free calcium carbonate which must be neutralized before any permanent pH reduction can occur. Minor element deficiencies (usually iron) that occur because of the high pH can usually be effectively treated with foliar applications of micro-nutrients (e.g., ferrous sulfate).