

# TURF TWISTERS

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## PROTECT AGAINST

**Question:** I would like to reduce pesticide use on my golf course. Japanese beetle grub populations in the fairways often are high enough to warrant an insecticide treatment. Would placing the commercial Japanese beetle traps in the roughs protect the fairways from damage? (Michigan)

**Answer:** The Japanese beetle traps will attract adult beetles from a considerable distance, but should only be considered a monitoring tool. True, many beetles are captured, but many more are attracted to the area. This may increase the potential for foliar feeding injury of ornamental plantings and turf injury from grubs later in the season. A few well-placed traps near the course will help monitor the overall population in the area and provide useful information regarding when to sample fairways for grubs.

## SLIMY SNAILS

**Question:** During the summer, we have problems with small aquatic snails plugging the screens in our sprinklers. We use reclaimed water and suspect the snails are feeding on the algae that is typically found in our irrigation pond. We tried granular copper sulfate to eliminate the algae, but we still have a problem with the snails. Any other suggestions? (California)

**Answer:** The installation of a self-flushing filtration system for your pump station would help keep the snails from plugging the sprinklers. A screen size of 50-100 microns would be most effective. In addition to granular copper sulfate applications, you may also want to inject chlorine into your irrigation pond. Check the water before adding the chlorine to be sure you do not exceed a total of 10 ppm, which could adversely affect the turf.

## AND PRODUCT OVERUSE

**Question:** I've used Nematicur on my greens the last three seasons to suppress nematodes and it worked fine. However, this year's treatment didn't work! What happened? (Mississippi)

**Answer:** True resistance to nematicides has not been documented, but there is evidence of enhanced microbial degradation of certain nematicides. One possibility is that some microbes may be using the Nematicur as a food source. After years of repeated use, the microbe population may have increased to levels that cause the material to degrade before it kills the nematodes. To avoid resistance problems, rotate the nematicide products used. If possible, adjust management practices to promote turfs that are less susceptible to these pests.