

# TURF TWISTERS

## REGULAR CALIBRATION

**Question:** Earlier this winter, during the cool weather and heavy rains, I noticed some pink snow mold active on some of my greens. The greens were too wet to use our spray rig, so I chose to use a backpack sprayer. However, I had difficulty calibrating it for proper delivery. Is there an easy way to calibrate a backpack sprayer accurately? (Maryland)

**Answer:** Calibrating a backpack sprayer is not difficult if these steps are followed. First, determine your spray width and measure a path on a level surface to a set length. Determine the amount of time you need to walk your path. Do this with the sprayer on your back *at least* half full. Next, using plain water, collect the spray from the nozzle and determine the volume collected over the same time frame. Be sure to maintain your spraying pressure during this step. Once you know the area covered and volume delivered, a volume/unit area can be determined and fungicide added accordingly.

## SCHEDULES

**Question:** As a recently appointed green committee chairman, I am finding it extremely difficult to integrate our maintenance schedule into our pre-established tournament calendar. Any suggestions? (Arizona)

**Answer:** Poor maintenance planning affects the entire membership and not just tournament participants. Many maintenance practices should be performed when growing conditions are optimal. If not, they can have a negative impact on course conditioning for many seasons to come. So, with this in mind, it is best to develop the maintenance schedule first and then integrate tournaments around these dates.

## ASSIST MAINTENANCE OBJECTIVES

**Question:** What are the most popular types of TAS visits that are done by your agronomists? (Iowa)

**Answer:** Great question. Here are just a few examples of the types of visits requested by superintendents:

- Typical course tour with the superintendent and course officials.
- Presentations for special projects such as green reconstruction, fairway grassing, irrigation system upgrading, etc.
- One-on-one meetings with superintendents to discuss technical information.
- Assist with orientation of new Green Committee members.
- Speak at crew meetings to help reinforce maintenance expectations of the course.
- Assistance in developing long-range plans and maintenance objectives.