

# TURF TWISTERS

## DON'T COMPROMISE

**Question:** The Rules of Golf define the "teeing ground" as a rectangular area between designated markers and two club lengths in depth. How far apart should the markers be? (Ohio)

**Answer:** While available footage and play volume may force compromises, five paces between tee markers offers good course setup and reasonable wear distribution. Markers should be moved daily.

## ATTENTION

**Question:** I have started a new job at an older golf course and am interested in determining the physical properties and drainage capabilities of the soils in the greens. What is the best approach to address these questions? (Connecticut)

**Answer:** That information can be obtained from a laboratory analysis of an undisturbed soil column. Collect an undisturbed sample using a 2" diameter PVC pipe. Pound the pipe down to a 12" depth to collect the sample (see: *Green Section Record*, September/October 1995). Seal both ends of the pipe with newspaper and duct tape in preparation for shipping to an accredited physical soil-testing laboratory. The laboratory analysis will provide a written record of the evaluation with information that will be useful for future management decisions. Contact a Green Section office in your region to obtain a list of accredited laboratories.

## TO DETAILS

**Question:** Our golf course becomes a sea of styrofoam cups during the peak playing season. My manager feels that the maintenance staff is not being conscientious enough in regards to trash detail. How do other superintendents reduce the amount of trash blowing around their courses? (Texas)

**Answer:** Many courses have a *detail person* or someone whose job it is to pay attention to all the little things, such as trash. In addition, their job description would include filling the water jugs, emptying trash receptacles, filling the ball washers, moving ropes and stakes to guide traffic, and all the other detail-oriented chores. If the maintenance staff is too small to have a detail person, you might consider an interesting solution developed by a club in Texas. They cut 1/2-inch rings of 2 1/2-inch PVC pipe and inserted them into the golf cart cup-holders. The tapered styrofoam cups fit snugly into the rings, thus reducing the overall number of styrofoam cups blowing across the course.

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