There is quite a bit of encroachment of bermuda into the greens. Is there a chemical that will kill the bermuda but not the bent? (North Carolina)

A — We know of no chemical that will kill bermuda and not harm the bent, unless it would be Tupersan. It has been reported to be quite damaging to bermuda. I doubt that Tupersan has been recommended by the manufacturer for this purpose, so treat it experimentally at first. The other approach is to be extra diligent about edging and picking the runners out by hand.

Q — We would appreciate having the answers to several questions about Penncross bent. At what height should it be cut from 1) the playing viewpoint and 2) the greenkeeping angle? Under normal conditions, how often should it be cut? What feeding program is considered to be adequate? (Iowa)

A — Best height of cut for greens is three-sixteenth inch; for tees one-fourth inch, and for fairways one-half inch. Turfgrasses must be managed to suit the players—management is forced to adjust.

Best frequency of cut is daily on greens, three to four times a week for tees and fairways. By keeping tees and fairways on the dry side mowings can be reduced.

Guidelines on feeding include 1) maintain pH close to 7.0; 2) keep phosphorus low; 3) use equal quantities of nitrogen and potash (preferably slow-release nitrogen and sulphate of potash). Don't overfeed with nitrogen.

Q — We have sent you specimens of some cup-shaped bodies that occurred in one of our putting greens. Included is a plug of turf. The cups seem to be filled with seeds. Can you help us identify the invaders and suggest a cure? (West Virginia)

A — The specimens went to New York before coming to College Park. They arrived three weeks later in good shape because you packaged them so well.

The cup-shaped bodies are fairy-ring producing fungi belonging to the Pezziales family. What appears to be seeds are spore masses.

Fungi thrive on acid, low-nitrogen media. My suggestion is to shrivel them with repeated sprays of hydrated lime at one pound to 1,000 square feet. To supply nitrogen at the same time I've had excellent success with powdered ureaform at two pounds per thousand added to the hydrated lime in the spray tank. Remove all screws to avoid clogging. Spray in the evening and don't rinse it in until morning.

Q — We have heard some discussion of contract maintenance for golf courses. No one seems to know much about it and we would like to know more. Can you enlighten us? (Texas)

A — I am not an expert on contract maintenance, but I have encountered it in one form or another at various times. In South Africa a number of golf courses contract their weed control to a company that is staffed by experts. It relieves the superintendent of many decisions and headaches. The company guarantees the work. It looked good to me.

We have contract maintenance with us on the West Coast where it has been successful for many years. I

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