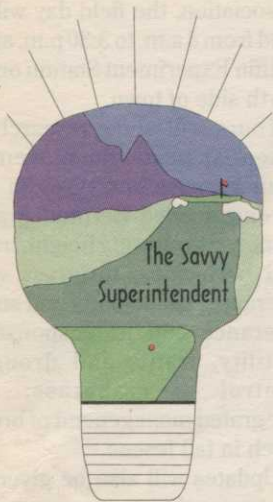


# From agronomy to aesthetics, tips by which to live



By TERRY BUCHEN

## POA ANNUA

Another tool to help control the ever-dreaded poa annua is being used by superintendents, especially on newly constructed courses. Before guests are allowed to play, their golf spikes are cleaned of all debris to keep poa annua seeds from contaminating the turf.

The locker room attendant usually performs this task and sometimes also polishes the shoes

before play begins, and then again after the round. The bag-drop attendant asks for the shoes and takes them to the locker room attendant.

Supers have said this approach has been great public relations. Besides being effective for controlling unnecessary seed-head encroachment, it has helped them sell the extra expense of chemically keeping out annual bluegrass and to do everything possible to prove to the golfing

public that they have done their homework.

## SPRAYER FOAMER

One particular idea to help the spray technician — who is using a foam marking attachment on his boom sprayer — has been showing good results. On sunny, hot and humid days, the foam sometimes will “disappear” while the person is refilling the spray tank, waiting for golfers to pass by, etc. By adding a green turf

coloring chemical, or plain green food coloring to the foam mix, you will mark the areas that were previously sprayed. The green “dye” will usually last up to two days at best, depending on how dark and visible you want the spots.

## THE TOP ONE INCH

Superintendents who host televised amateur and professional golf championships have used a couple of ideas for painting the top one inch of soil, above the hole liner to make “cups” easily identifiable for viewers. A plastic bottle containing a bright white shoe polish has been used for years. It closely resembles the glossy white paint that turf managers use on their hole liners as they are routinely painted throughout the season.

Another old idea is to use a bright white water-based latex paint and a half-inch-wide brush to paint the soil. For even better results, some supers grind up white blackboard chalk into a powder and add it to the shoe polish or latex paint.

This creates the brightest, most visible hole for television, or a touch of class for any member/guest tournament. When using a shoe-polish, with built-in applicator, or paint brush, apply the liquid at least 45 to 60 minutes before the first group of golfers.

A piece of plywood with a 4-1/4-inch hole cut out serves as a great template to help keep the paint off of the turf surface. Another trick is to put the can of paint inside a bucket so it will not spill on the putting surface if bumped.

The new way of marking the top one inch is to use an aerosol can of white paint that is turned upside down and inserted into a pre-fabricated tool that fits inside the 4-1/4-inch hole. A twist of the wrist can paint the soil in a matter of seconds. This new way of painting is convenient and fast but is not as visible as the other two ways.

## TOURNAMENT CONTESTS

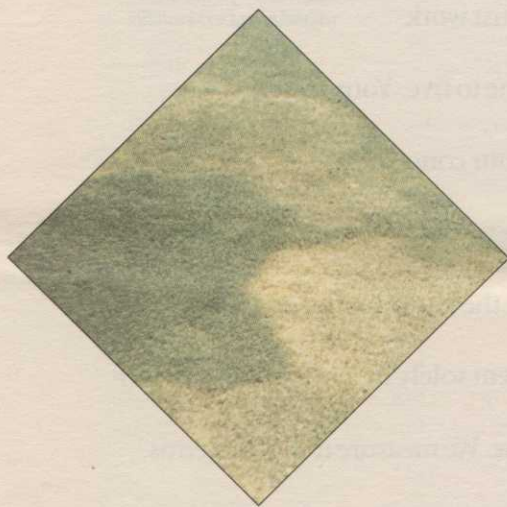
During many important functions, white circles are desired on one or more greens for players to win a contest of who can get “inside” one or more circles. One of the best materials for use is white baby powder, without baking soda added, that is applied to moist turf just after mowing.

A string is tied around the flagstick and the top of the baby powder bottle to any diameter size circle that is desired. The baby powder can easily be hosed off the next day and no one will ever notice that it was there.

This idea is also helpful if you are having a multi-day tournament where the hole and circles will change locations each day.

Baby powder containing baking soda will burn the turf, so be cautious.

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