

# USGA Turf Advisory Service

The focal point of the USGA Green Section is the Turf Advisory Service (TAS). First started in 1953, this service permits individual facilities to reap the benefits of on-site visits by highly skilled USGA agronomists located in Green Section offices throughout the country.

Each agronomist visits more than 130 courses annually. Their experience helps golf course staff and officials produce the best possible golf turf for the dollars that can be spent.

The TAS's purpose is not to tell anyone how to run a golf course or what products to buy. Rather, it seeks to bring a wealth of information and an impartial yet concerned perspective regarding turfgrass growth requirements, how these requirements might best be managed for golf and ideas that other golf courses have found to be beneficial.

Each course visit results in a complete written report to the course. This document provides a permanent record of observations and recommendations. It typically reviews subjects such as current maintenance programs, course condition; environmental subjects, safety issues; and long-range planning. This document also monitors progress made between visits and can help courses better target budget dollars for maximum benefit.

The lines of communication don't end with the written report. USGA agronomists remain available for ongoing consultation by telephone and correspondence, and, with advance scheduling, may be available to address meetings, conferences, and seminars.

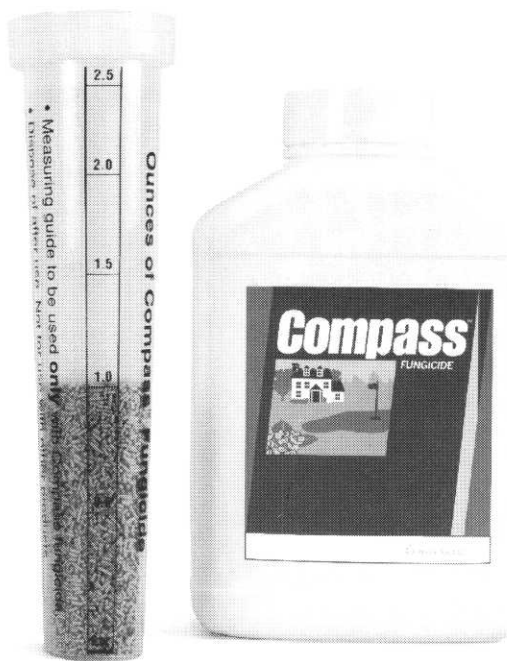
Is the TAS a worthwhile expenditure for a golf course to make? Since more than 95% of approximately 1,600 annual TAS subscribers continue regular visits, the tangible benefits derived from regular visits appear obvious. The 1999-2000 list of America's Greatest 100 Golf Courses compiled by *Golf Digest* featured 83 TAS subscribers, including 45 of the top 50. TAS will help any course -- whether public or private, large or small, urban or rural -- save money, improve efficiency, maintain high standards and produce a quality golf course.

Why should anyone pay the Green Section for advice? Advice is only as

good as its source, and the background, experience, and expertise of the USGA Green Section is unparalleled. The USGA Green Section is the only agency in the country devoted solely to golf course turf, its playing conditions and its management. It sells nothing. Instead, it lends its expertise that cannot be matched by any other agency anywhere.

Inquiries about the TAS are always welcome. Contact either the USGA's national headquarters or the appropriate regional Green Section office.

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