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## ATHLETIC TURF

### Low maintenance turfs recommended for roughs

Rough areas account for 40 to 60 percent of most golf course acreage. Dr. Terry Riordan of the University of Nebraska believes more prudent care will be required for roughs, based on current environmental concerns and water shortages.

"When we think about roughs in the future," says Riordan, "we're going to be thinking about reducing management—reducing mowing, reducing the fertilization requirement and reducing irrigation."

Riordan believes a good length for roughs is 1½ to 3 inches, with mowing required about every two weeks.

Tall fescue and buffalograss are two of Riordan's choices for seeding the rough areas.

### Safety talks continue

Annual confrontations with Michigan State University students over the spraying of 2,4-D have taught Gary Parrott and Ron Foote of the MSU grounds department many lessons about worker competence and safety, and the importance of communication.

"If you want a headache," says Foote, "have a person who's on the end of a sprayer answer 'I don't know,' when asked what is being sprayed. You want the people who are using the material to be acquainted with it."

Continuing education is also essential proof that your staff is concerned and knows what they're doing. "On a yearly basis," explains Foote, "generally in the winter, (chemical experts) from outside the campus come in and talk to our people, and give them information on the chemicals they use."

Parrott and Foote take their annual sparring with the students in stride, and aren't at all defensive. "Because the concerns of a caring public need to be addressed," says Foote, "the information (they seek) must be delivered effectively and openly. Providing this information will enable us to keep the necessary tools, while performing services needed to maintain a safe and healthy environment."