

Fertilisers

Cannock fertilisers

Cannock Fertilisers Limited market fertilisers, specialities and grass seeds to meet the exacting demands of golf greenkeepers.

Particularly well-known is the range of compounds and specialised products for fine turf including Organic Lawn, Winterfeed and Greenex fertilisers, Turfex to control weeds and moss, Mercurex mercurised turf sand, etc. For fairways and other gang mown areas four GK Granular compounds are available. Fusarium Specific turf fungicide, Chlordane liquid worm killer, Concentrated Worm Killer (Rotenone powder) and Texturf turf conditioner are worthy of note. Cannock grass seed mixtures enjoy a high reputation and only the most suitable varieties are used.

And fertilisers from Suttons too

The 1972 catalogue from Suttons Seeds Limited covers the full range of supplies likely to interest the greenkeepers, together with pages giving a Calendar of Turf Culture and a centre spread showing the rates for given areas applicable to all Suttons seeds and dressings.

Greensward still leads the cavalcade. The mixture has 1.05% iron as well as a good organic content. One ton costs £4.20 per cwt, 2 ozs per square yard (5 cwt per acre) are recommended as a basic Spring dressing.

For soils deficient in organic matter, a new dressing 'Greensward' and 'Humus' has been produced for £3.15 per cwt though the recommended rate of application is 4-8 ozs per square yard.

The Suttons Organic Turf Dressing is prepared for fine turf surfaces at £3.65 per cwt. Its high organic content contrasts with 'Foursward' which Suttons have developed for feeding large areas. Sportsground Fertiliser may be used where natural organic matter is low. These two cost £3.50 and £3.00 respectively, but both can be applied at 2 ozs per square yard.

Autumn is still a long way off but Suttons Autumn Turf Fertiliser will supply the sward's needs after a trying season. Low in nitrogen, iron is still included for healthy grass.

For those with a weed problem, 'Cleanturf' combines fertiliser with two powerful selective weedkillers. This material costs £4.35 per cwt at the ton rate on which too, all the preceding prices are based.

AND FERTILISER ON TEE TOO

J. Perris, B.Sc., Advisory Officer, Sports Turf Research Institute

Introduction

The primary aim in maintaining a tee should be to provide a firm dry surface, giving a level stance at all times of the year. To achieve this ideal condition sound construction is the first essential but good management will be the next step to success. Work on the tee should not be confined to fairly regular mowing with an occasional rest when conditions get really bad, but rather as all the year round attention along the following lines.

Spring

Spring is usually the time of year when the summer tees are first used, when we hope to have seen the last of the bad weather and the winter tees. It is at this time, however, that many people make their first mistake. Changing from winter to summer tees should not be dictated by the date on the calendar but rather by the state of the weather, growth, etc. Impatience at this time can often ruin a good tee for the remainder of the summer.

When winter tees are eventually brought out of play do not forget about them until next winter, hoping they will grass over to some extent, but instead carry out a proper programme of renovating the thin, bare and often muddy patches. Intensive solid or slit tine spiking will be the first essential to relieve the compaction often found as a

result of constant play under wet conditions. This intensive spiking will also assist the formation of a seedbed tilth. Any levelling work required should then be undertaken using sandy soil if extra material is necessary to fill in depressions, etc. When a suitably tilled level seedbed has been prepared a dressing with a well balanced granular fertiliser is useful prior to sowing a fine seeds mixture. If a dry spell follows, watering may be necessary to assist germination and establishment.

A well-balanced fertiliser dressing should also be given to the summer tees as soon as sustained spring growth is evident. Bumpy or bare ground that may remain should be given a dressing with sandy compost or sown as appropriate. When growth becomes stronger, gradually reduce the height of cut from the winter topping height of about $\frac{1}{2}$ in. to the summer height of $\frac{1}{4}$ in. Do not forget to box off clippings at all times. Late spring may also be an appropriate time to carry out some weed control work.

Summer

Continue with weed control work if required, allowing some 5-6 weeks to elapse between sprayings. About mid-summer growth may fade from the spring fertiliser dressing hence another fertiliser application may be required.

At this time play will no doubt be extremely heavy and therefore the need to move the tee markers frequently will be of paramount importance. Courses with large teeing areas will no doubt be counting their blessings at this time. Nevertheless, divot marks will occur no matter how big the tees and time should be found occasionally to fill in divot marks with sandy compost containing some fine grass seed. If moisture is present either due to artificial or natural precipitation, the inclusion of grass seed is extremely helpful and advantageous.

The winter tees should still not be forgotten at this time. Make sure that they receive regular mowing as well as weedkilling work, etc. if the need exists.

Autumn

The urgent need to complete maintenance tasks on the greens often means that work on the tees is delayed until the late autumn. Sanding and de-worming of the winter tees should, however, perhaps be exceptions to this practice in order to get them into a reasonable condition in good time.

Renovation of the worn summer areas will be very important when the main work on the tees is eventually started. In a similar manner to that discussed for renovating the winter tees intensive spiking and levelling work will be essential. Turfing can then be carried out to achieve a grass cover on the bare areas although there is no reason why seeding could not be undertaken if renovation procedures can be completed in the early autumn. Keep topping the grass as growth continues and take earthworm control measures if necessary.

Winter

Occasional applications of a gritty, preferably lime-free sand may be necessary to maintain a firm dry surface. If reasonably open weather and suitable ground conditions allow, further solid or slit tine aeration work would also be beneficial.

Other points

Traffic on to and off tees can often cause unsightly muddy tracks particularly in the winter months. Means should be devised, therefore, to re-route traffic occasionally and so avoid continuous wear in any one spot.

On very wet and/or heavily used courses artificial teeing surfaces such as rubber mats are often used with some success in the winter. Again it will be important to make sure that these artificial surfaces and surrounding areas are maintained properly and not allowed to develop into rubber islands in a sea of mud.

Luck or labour

On some courses the natural soil type and indigenous grasses are such that teeing areas require very little attention and more or less look after themselves. For the vast majority, however, presentation of a good tee surface involves a great deal of time and hard work spread throughout the whole year.