control it, but also produces proportionately more dead material in the
surfaces then become soft, wet and spongy throughout wetter periods of
weather. I am convinced this has a deleterious effect on the upper soil layers,
since in the constantly moist environment the soil tends to become compacted
more easily, thus adding to drainage problems.

Combine the above effects with increased incidence of fungal disease and
you are well on the way to losing the finer turf species. The free-seeding annu-
al meadow grass spreads in as the better species lose ground; since it can sur-

Fertiliser
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The natural colour of a healthy brown top and fescue sward is a very
pale green - far removed from the image of turf promoted by the fertiliser com-
pnies and thus perceived as desirable by the layman. However, the wear and tear from con-
stant play nowadays, combined with the removal of clippings on fine turf areas, does require supple-
mental feeding to sustain an adequate grass cover and even growth.

The poor appearance of annual meadow-grass swards in the spring due to
weakness from winter disease attack and wear and tear of play always pro-
vokes criticism from Club members, with pressure on the greenkeeper.

You’ve heard it all before, ‘so and so’s course down the
road has lovely green greens’ (again that accent
on green being great), completely ignoring the fact
that this paragon is 500 feet lower down the hill,
on better soils and sheltered from East winds. All
too often there is a resort to the fertiliser bag to
provide a quick boost and so the cycle of deteriora-
tion continues.

Too little nitrogen is nowhere as bad as too much;
but can still have a drastic effect on playing sur-
faces. Whilst bent and fescue grasses are predomi-
nant in the sward there will be little immediate
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