Six of the country's top men give their views on feeding regimes

Feeding Regimes
Compiled by Malcolm Huntington MBE

1. Do you plan your feeding programme well in advance or wait to assess weather and ground conditions?

1. I always plan a couple of months in advance and then, of course, have to see what the weather and ground conditions bring along.

1. I plan a feeding programme two or three months before the growing season after consultation with our agronomist and then, of course, keep an eye on the weather and ground conditions.

1. I wait to assess weather and ground conditions before deciding on a feeding programme. We have very dry conditions and never come off the greens.

1. I plan three or four months ahead, but then it depends on the weather and time of the year. Last year’s regime and soil analysis, which we do each year, is also taken into consideration.

1. I have a rough idea and then I always work according to the weather. Nothing is set in concrete.

1. I plan ahead and then take into account weather and ground conditions.
2. Can you explain your philosophy with regard to feeding?

3. We need a different policy programme as we have one pure sand green, two USGA greens and 15 of the traditional soil base which were constructed nearly 150 years ago.

4. We have a different policy for two of our greens, the 13th and 16th with a little more fertiliser. I fertilise the other 16 greens four or five times a year and half the fairways once a year. The other half are near the river and they grown very well without fertilisers.

5. We are not considering a more organic approach but I have tried organic fertilisers and have done over the years.

2. Peaks and troughs sum it up. I like a good kick start at the beginning of the growing season and then basically follow a "little and often" theory. I like to tickle things up every five to six weeks.

3. All the greens get the same treatment. We feed fairways once a year with 20-10-10 and tees and surrounds twice a year.

4. We are not considering a more organic approach. I have tried organic fertilisers but they don't seem to work, although I don't know why. We stick to the traditional fertilisers.

5. Yes. We are more aware these days of environmental issues. We haven't gone down that road so far, but I have tried seaweed and had encouraging results with it.

2. I am a big believer in the "little and often" theory. We get a lot of rain so fertilisers leech through quickly at times and so we have to put a bit more on.

3. We have a different policy for two of our greens, the 13th and 16th with a little more fertiliser. I fertilise the other 16 greens four or five times a year and half the fairways once a year. The other half are near the river and they grown very well without fertilisers.

4. Yes. We have already done so what led you to doing so?

5. I can't foresee any major changes. I always keep an eye on new products coming on the market and many clubs have changed to liquid organic fertilisers. I have tried them but haven't been impressed to be frank and so stick to tried and tested methods.

2. We feed as and when required. Our greens are very unusual in that they are built on probase (grained ash) which comes from power stations near Gainsborough. We cut at five mil throughout the year and the greens are never wet.

3. Across the board, although soil analysis identifies weak areas and so we can re-adjust if needed be. We have a baseline and then touch up if necessary.

4. Not bothered if it is organic or inorganic because it makes little difference. We have used a product for the last two years and achieved good results. I have used both and am not biased one way or the other.

5. No. It is not necessary to change, but I must add that I am always looking at new products and am not adverse to change. I will always try something if it comes on the market.

2. We feed as and when required. Our greens are very unusual in that they are built on probase (grained ash) which comes from power stations near Gainsborough. We cut at five mil throughout the year and the greens are never wet.

3. The regime is geared to plant recovery obviously give it some feed.

4. I have been organically based since I started greenkeeping 28 years ago with seaweed and hoof and horn products for example. I have used a product for the last two years and achieved good results. I have tried both and am not biased one way or the other.

5. Yes. We will have extra staff in due course and that will give us the opportunity to use more organic materials as we will have more time to mix the materials by hand.