Mix it up
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A 1,600-gallon fertigation system tank was converted to a premix tank for chemicals and granular fertilizers. To customize the premixing operation, Eric D. Spurlock, Manakin Course superintendent, and John Haley, director of golf course operations at the Hermitage Country Club in Manakin-Sabot, Va., installed a separate stand-alone Banjo inductor manifold system with a 15-gallon storage tank.

Granular fertilizers, such as ammonium sulfate, are added through the 15-gallon inductor tank. Then, valves are opened and closed on the manifold, and the inductor acts as a toilet bowl that sucks the products through and breaks them down in the process, adding them into the 1,600-gallon storage tank. About 375 pounds of ammonium sulfate are mixed into about 600 gallons of water, which takes about 20 minutes. One control valve agitates the mixture, and another keeps the flow from being restricted into the large tank when it's in use. The agitator is used constantly as the sprayer applies chemicals or fertilizers to keep them in suspension.

The storage tank was on hand already. The 5-horsepower, 220-volt motor and 2-inch-diameter, centrifugal flooded-suction pump were slightly used. The hose, fittings and agitator assembly were purchased new and cost about $1,500. The inductor manifold system cost $375. The 15-gallon inductor tank, stand, wye strainer and fittings cost $250.

An electrical contractor hooked it all up in about two and half to three hours.

Ramp it up
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