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soluble N to achieve early green, but then you may have much more
green than you want a little later. With a good bluegrass turf it is
best to work along with nature and
not force this “early green” at the
expense of quality turf the rest of
the season.

Q.—When you first came to Cal-
ifornia we showed you kikuyugrass
asked, “How can we get rid of
this pest?” You asked a few ques-
tions about its ability to stand
under drought, its fertilizer and water re-
quirements. Then you asked,
“Why would you want to get rid
of it?” Now, with good manage-
ment, kikuyugrass is one of our
best fairway turfs, needing no irri-
gation and no fertilization. My
question is, “Do you still feel that
we can live with this grass when
it is managed?”

(Amsterdam)

A.—Yes, especially now that we
have heavy power equipment to
keep the turf eminently playable.
We do need to know how to con-
trol its spread into bunkers and
greens.

Q.—We have been told that we
are foolish to buy organic fertiliz-
ers (ureaform and natural organ-
ics) when the soluble nitrogen
materials cost so much less per
unit of plant food. We like the or-
ganics but we also are concerned
with economics. Can you give us
a guide?

(North Carolina)

A.—Inorganic (soluble) forms of
nitrogen are more easily misused
and, when improperly understood
and applied, they are capable of
causing considerable damage. I’ve
seen so much evidence of igno-
rance concerning soluble forms of
N that I’ve swung heavily toward
the side of the safer fertilizers. A
good UF, for example, can be mis-
used rather badly and still will not
markedly upset the equilibrium.
True, the organics cost more per
unit. The safety, the reduction in
numbers of applications, the more
uniform growth—all help to com-
pensate for the differential. One
bit of evidence of the value of the
slow-release materials in spite of
the cost is in the home-owner fer-
tilizers. Nearly all of them now
contain significant amounts of the
safer materials that last longer.

Q.—I have been asked to use cer-
tain growth regulators along ditch
banks and around trees on our
golf course. Materials suggested
are Maleic hydrazide, Gibberellic
acid, Cycoce, B-Nine and Phos-
phon. Should these be applied in
spring before growth is over
2 1/2 inches? Do you consider
them economical?

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