Don't tell superintendents Ron Ross and Bob Miller that all fertilizers are the same. The veteran superintendents have tried numerous brands of fertilizers in their careers, and they know what works.

"A lot of people will tell you that fertilizer is just fertilizer," says Miller, superintendent of En-Joie Golf Club in Endicott, N.Y. "But it's not."

Ross, superintendent of Quarry Oaks Golf Course in Ashland, Neb., says he can save money by buying cheap fertilizer, but he wouldn't apply it with much confidence. That's why Ross doesn't second guess himself for paying more for better and more dependable fertilizer, such as the Andersons Golf Products' fertilizer. "Why not buy something I'm totally satisfied and have had great results with?" he asks rhetorically.

Ross says the Andersons' products provide the backbone of his fertilization program. "I feel comfortable and confident using their products," Ross says. "They're reliable and easy to use."

Ross uses Contec® controlled-release fertilizer on his greens, specifically the 18-9-18/63 percent methylene urea product. Ross prefers the product's small particle size because it's resistant to mower pickup. He also likes that it dissolves quickly into the turf's canopy. "We've had no problem with injury and streaking," Ross says of Contec, which he uses on his greens about four times a year.

Contec can provide slow-release nitrogen feeding, in some cases, for up to 16 weeks without surge growth. Contec is clean, has low dust and does not burn. Ross says the product is so user-friendly that he would let a new worker apply it. He says application directions on the Contec package are clear and easy to understand.

In 1998, when En-Joie completed a two-year renovation, Miller decided to use Contec on the course’s restored and larger bentgrass greens. "It provides a longer residual, which is always good," says Miller, a superintendent for more than 20 years.

Miller recalls switching from Andersons' products to a cheaper fertilizer several years ago. It burned areas on tees and greens, so he switched back. He also learned a lesson.

"If you're satisfied with a product, you shouldn't change to another product," Miller says. "In our business, people are willing to pay for peace of mind — to know that a product will react the same time and again."