To get a better understanding of the fertilizers available for our use on the golf course, we set up an experiment on our practice range using three different fertilizers.

The three types we used were:
1. Turf Management 24-3-12 Greenscote which consists of 1.2% ammoniacal N and 22.8% urea N of which 10.8% is polymer coated urea. This product was donated for our use on this test by John Wiley at Turf Supply Co.
2. Scott’s 25-3-20 NPK Turf Fertilizer with Poly S, what we currently use on our fairways. Nitrogen source is 1.1% ammoniacal N and 23.9% urea with 17.4% coated slow release.
3. Wilbur-Ellis 24-4-12 with Nutralene of which the nitrogen source is 1.57% ammoniacal N, 4.93% urea, 7.25% water insoluble N, and 10.25% slowly available water soluble N. This product was provided to us by Larry Thornton at Wilbur-Ellis.

On May 27, we divided our driving range into 14 plots, each 50 feet x 80 feet, and applied the following:

On the Wilbur-Ellis plots we applied 20-0-20 with Nutralene. We also borrowed a scale from Dr. Ward Stienstra to help give us a more accurate measure of clipping amounts. Again, we would take a 20-foot cut from a designated plot, empty the contents of the three baskets into a bucket and weigh the contents.

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Fertilizer Research —
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**August 6.** Turf Management Greenscote 2 pounds clippings/20 feet. Scott’s Poly S 1.90 lbs. Wilbur-Ellis Nutralene 1.40 lbs. Check .5 lbs.

The color of all the fertilized plots appeared excellent with the check appearing very “hungry” for N. No disease appearing in any plots.

**August 10.** (After 4 inches rain)
Turf Management Greenscote .85 lbs. Scott’s Poly S .70 lbs. Wilbur-Ellis Nutralene .35 lbs. Check .25 lbs.

**August 20.**
Turf Management Greenscote 1.80 lbs. Scott’s Poly S 2.30 lbs. Wilbur-Ellis Nutralene 1.65 lbs. Check .75 lbs.

Color appeared uniform with all plots except the check.

**August 27.**
Turf Management Greenscote 2.00 lbs. Scott’s Poly S 1.80 lbs. Wilbur-Ellis Nutralene 1.45 lbs. Check .60 lbs.

Again, plots all looked excellent, except for the check.

**September 3.**
Turf Management Greenscote 1.80 lbs. clippings. Scott’s Poly S .80 lbs. Wilbur-Ellis Nutralene .80 lbs. Check .75 lbs.

Turf color appeared uniform except for the check plot. No disease.

Any samples taken after Labor Day would not give us any measurements because the weather cooled and growth in all the plots slowed to almost a halt.

This test was not done to prove any fertilizer better than the other, but just to give me an indication of how well each performs when applied next to one another under the same climatic conditions. Thanks to Larry Thornton of Wilbur-Ellis and John Wiley of Turf Supply for supplying some of their products so we could do the comparison.

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Charlie Pooch

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