

Helpful Hints

Some practical advice from experienced greenkeepers on golf course maintenance. No guesswork here

Compost for Topdressing Putting Greens

THE kind of compost I use for topdressing putting greens is made up as follows:

I collect all the turf or sod with plenty of fibrous roots that I can possibly get; add to this good surface soil, sharp sand, and barnyard manure and make it into a pile at least one year before using. The ingredients of sod, surface soil, and sand making about 85 per cent and barnyard manure 15 per cent. The pile is kept moist to speed up decomposition.

When screening, the pile is taken down vertically to insure good mixing at the time of screening. I use approximately one cubic yard of screened compost to five thousand square

feet. This is enriched with fertilizers, one hundred and twenty-five pounds mixed with each cubic yard of compost of a well balanced fertilizer of 5-12-2.

This dressing is applied the beginning of May and again the first week of September. In June I use sulphate of ammonia in liquid form, dissolving two and one half pounds of sulphate of ammonia to fifty gallons of water. In the month of July I usually topdress with compost without fertilizers.

This treatment varies somewhat with climatic conditions as I find that some seasons require more attention in top dressing than others. But as a rule my putting greens keep



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