

in recently applied fertilizer is always a gamble, particularly at this time of year. In these circumstances summer fertilizer may be omitted altogether and playing conditions often suffer as a result. Alternatively some greenkeepers favour materials which do not scorch, e.g. organics or possibly urea-formaldehyde preparations. Such fertilizers are, however, expensive and, if the sward is suffering severely from lack of moisture they will not encourage growth to any marked extent until rain arrives. Efficient water supplies are, therefore, really a necessity for effective and regular summer fertilizer treatment.

Some clubs also experience difficulty in timing fertilizer treatment so as to minimise interference with play. Competition dates must be avoided and dressings perhaps timed so as to provide sufficient growth and a good colour for more important championships. When weather conditions also have to be taken into account the timing of dressings can be extremely difficult, especially on busy courses. The inconvenience caused to golfers by fertilizer on the putting surface should always be reduced to a minimum. Slit tine spiking

prior to dressing aids speedy absorption as does thorough watering after application. Fertilizers should also be finely ground and applied evenly with closely screened carrier if rapid disappearance into the surface is to be obtained.

The timing of applications can also be complicated by interaction with other operations. For example, weed control measures can be rendered more effective if fertilizer is applied a few days before the herbicide. The fertilizer will then assist the recovery of the grass and encourage the sward to grow into the bare areas left by dying weeds.

Conclusion

Finally it should be realised that correct summer fertilizer treatment not only ensures growth during the summer but also has a longer term effect in helping the maintenance of reasonable conditions during the winter period. Swards which are starved during the main growing season cannot be expected to produce any useful growth or provide satisfactory playing conditions for the winter or early spring. Summer fertilizer treatment is, therefore, a vital operation which no one can afford to neglect.

From the book "The Story of the R. and A." by J. B. Salmond.

While the great Bobby Jones was holing out on the eighteenth green, a club member, who had been ball-marking during the match, found himself next to two smartly dressed American ladies not particularly interested in golf.

He heard one say to the other, "A remarkably fine course for such a small town!"

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