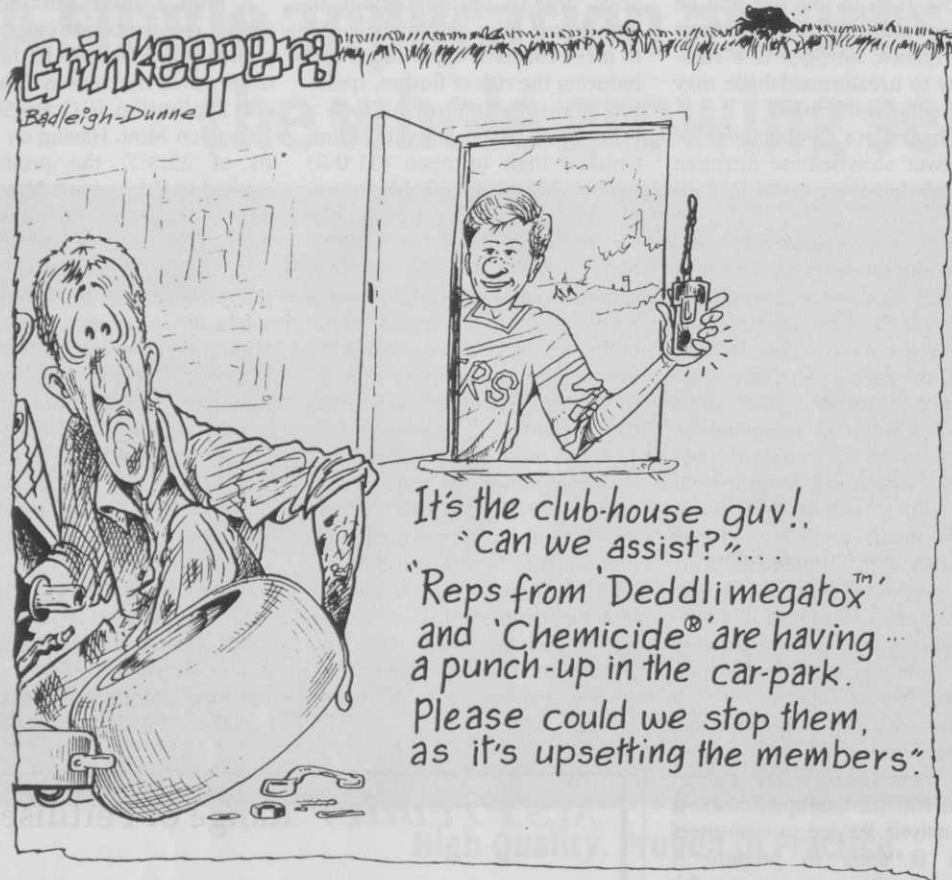


SPRING FERTILISERS



13 ➔ Microflow slow release liquid fertilisers have 'short-chained' methylene urea as their nitrogen source, giving a controlled release of nitrogen for up to 12 weeks, while promoting an early greening without growth flushes or fear of scorching, even at higher rates. Suitable for all turf areas, the product is available in three different formulations supplied as a solution which mixes instantly in water without agitation. Applied by conventional spray equipment, Mascot Microflow is available in 28:0:0, 18:3:6 and 15:0:10 formulations, the last two with added chelated micronutrients and iron respectively.

To promote rapid early season turf recovery following winter play, Gem Professional recommends the use of its Turf Tone plus Iron, a 6:0:3 formulation designed to stimulate early growth and tillering to thicken the sward. Nitrogen is supplied in readily available form within a coarse quick-acting powder which requires very little moisture to wash it down to the rootzone while remaining in place, during

grooming or verti-cutting.

Similarly designed to bring forward spring renovation programmes is Key Turf Tonic from Vitax, suitable for application in early March and at other times of the year when turf condition needs a boost. Supplied as a powder at a 2.1:0:2.5 + 3% iron formulation, the product also helps control moss and prevent fusarium patch disease.

Natural plant growth stimulants, such as seaweed extract, have been shown to improve both grass root and shoot development to provide a strong, healthy foundation for the growing season. Furthermore, trials on turf treated with Maxicrop's seaweed extract have produced increased plant chlorophyll levels, encouraging photosynthesis. Despite the proven results, Maxicrop admits that the influence of every single component contained within seaweed extract is yet unknown. Although this has produced scepticism in some quarters, one thing is certain: There is nothing harmful within the product, which is totally natural, containing growth

compounds which are already present in grass. Maxicrop offers a range of seaweed-based formulations with added nutrients, iron and trace elements suitable for use during the year as a turf conditioner, general purpose feed, green-up agent or aid to establishment. The company is delighted to discuss trial results and recommend programmes for specific turf areas and needs.

A range of seaweed-based liquid feeds as well as liquid fertilisers is offered by Agriland. The company's latest fertiliser product, Tournament, is designed as a total feed for application by sprayer up to five days ahead of competitions and where stressed or badly worn turf needs reviving.

Analysis is 15:0:3 accompanied by organics, trace elements and other ingredients which, says Agriland, nourish the turf and create a durable visual effect, bringing out colour and promoting good, even growth and vigorous rooting. Tournament is available in 20 litre containers, with six cans sufficient for treating 18 greens. It can also be tank-mixed with herbicides.

Project hunts for stories from the golf course

Does the heady coconut smell of gorse in the height of summer spark fond memories of days on the golf course? Do any trees at your club have a story to tell – the ball lodged in the fork of a branch or a particular species planted to commemorate a person or an event, a hole in one perhaps? Are there any wild plants special to your course and are they featured by the club in any way, for example in a badge or in an award for golfing achievement?

The connections between golf and the natural environment have always been strong. Flora Britannica is a project which aims to keep and record those connections. All people with an interest in golf are being invited to contribute their own stories to Flora Britannica – together they will feature in a book to be written by naturalist and broadcaster Richard Mabey.

The Flora Britannica project is keen to involve clubs in celebrating their links (sorry!) with wild plants. "English Nature's Hole by Hole Guide to the Wildlife of Royal St. George's for this year's Open proved extremely popular and could be easily repeated elsewhere", says John Newton the project's co-ordinator. "Compiling a map of a course which tells both golfing and plant stories is another initiative which we are following up. However, there are many other possibilities and we would be delighted to talk to clubs who have their own ideas."

If readers of Greenkeeper International would like to contribute a story to Flora Britannica or to explore the idea of promoting their clubs connection with wild plants, please contact John Newton at Flora Britannica, 41 Shelton Street, London WC2H 9HJ. Tel. 071 379 3109.