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LGS 1407 I

# COMPACT TRACTORS COMPARED

Make	hp	Lengt	h (in)	Widt	h (in)	Weig kg	ht (lb)	Transmission	PTO Fr :Md	:Rr	Hyd l	ift cap. (lb)	Hydraulic Services
Honda H 6522	22	2.77	(111)	1.33	(52)	834	(1839)	Semi auto	Opt :Std	:Std	950	(2095)	N/S
John Deere 670 755 855 955 1070	18.5 20 24 33 38.5	N/S N/S N/S N/S N/S		N/S 1.33 1.33 1.49 N/S	(52) (52) (59)	844 807 848 903 1481	(1860) (1780) (1870) (1990) (3265)	4F 1R x2 2-range hyd. 2-range hyd. 2-range hyd. 9F 2R	N/S :Opt N/S :Std N/S :Std N/S :Std N/S :N/S	:Std :Std :Std	358 409 409 491 916	(790) (899) (899) (1079) (2020)	N/S Twin SCV Twin SCV Twin SCV N/S
Marshall 184 224 264 304	18 22 25.8 29	2.18 2.30 2.18 2.52	(86) (91) (86) (99)	0.98 0.96 1.00 1.21	(39) (38) (39) (48)	630 N/S 700 N/S	(1390) (1545)	5F 3R 12F 6R 6F 3R 12F 6R	Opt :Opt Opt :N/S Opt :Opt Opt :N/S	:Std	550 N/S 550 N/S	(1210) (1210)	1SCV, 1DCV N/S 1SCV, 1DCV N/S
<b>Shibaura</b>	20 33 45	2.70 3.08 3.21	(109) (123) (128)	1.20 1.50 1.60	(48) (60) (64)	625 1195 1370	(1378) (2635) (3021)	Hydrostatic 12F 4R 12F 4R	N/S :Std N/S :N/S N/S :N/S	-0.000	N/S		1SCV, (1DCV) (4DCV) (4DCV)
TX2160F TU318F TU320F TA525F TA530F TA537F TA545F	18 19 22 26 33 40 48	2.00 2.71 3.02 2.95 3.05 3.33 3.41	(80) (108) (121) (118) (122) (133) (136)	1.09 1.06 1.30 1.48 1.31 1.54 1.55	(44) (42) (52) (59) (52) (62) (62)	N/S 710 900 1150 1170 1535 1760	(1565) (1984) (2535) (2579) (3384) (3880)	6F 2R 6F 2R or Hyd 6F 2R or Hyd 4F 4R x4 4F 4R x4 4F 4R x4 4F 4R x4	Std :N/S Opt :N/S Opt :N/S N/S :N/S Opt :N/S N/S :N/S N/S :N/S	:Std :Std :Std :Std :Std	N/S N/S N/S N/S N/S N/S N/S		(1SCV, 1DCV) 1DCV, (1DCV) 1DCV, (1DCV) 2DCV 2DCV 2DCV 2DCV 2DCV
Massey Ferguson 1010-4 1010-4HST 1020-4 1020-4HST 1030-4 1035-4	16 16 21 21 26 31	2.16 2.30 2.40 2.81 2.67 2.72	(86) (91) (96) (112) (107) (109)	1.02 1.02 1.15 1.15 1.46 1.51	(41) (41) (46) (46) (58) (60)	641 650 830 960 1235 1235	(1413) (1433) (1830) (2117) (2723) (2723)	6F 2R 2-range hyd. 12F4R 3-range hyd. 12F4R 12F4R	N/S :N/S N/S :N/S N/S :N/S N/S :Std N/S :N/S N/S :N/S	:Std :Std :Std :Std	550 550 700 700 780 780	(1210) (1210) (1543) (1543) (1720) (1720)	(1SCV) 1SCV 1SCV 1SCV 1SCV 1SCV
Kubota B1550 B1750 B2150 L2550GST L2850 Reversible L3250 L5450	17 20 24 26.5 31 36.5 54	2.59 2.59 2.78 2.77 N/S 2.93 3.49	(104) (104) (111) (111) (117) (139)	0.98 1.04 1.36 1.30 N/S 1.42 1.72	(39) (42) (54) (52) (56) (68)	1160 N/S 1245	(1389) (1433) (1830) (2557) (2740) (5522)	6F 2R or Hyd 6F 2R or Hyd 9F 3R or Hyd 8F 8R 16F 16R 8F 7R 8F 8R	N/S :Std N/S :Std N/S :Std N/S :Std N/S :N/S N/S :N/S N/S :N/S	:Std :Std :Std	N/S N/S N/S N/S N/S N/S		(1SCV, 1DCV) (1SCV, 1DCV) (1SCV, 1DCV) 1SCV (1DCV) 1SCV (1DCV) 1SCV (1DCV) 1SCV (1DCV)
Ford 1220 1520 1720 1920 2120	16.7 22.7 27.4 33.1 41.3	2.70 2.83 3.08 3.21 3.48	(106) (111) (121) (126) (137)	1.04 1.23 1.40 1.48 1.57	(41) (48) (55) (58) (62)	1220 1392	(1429) (2278) (2690) (3069) (3858)	9F 3R or Hyd 9F 3R or Hyd 12F4R or Hyd 12F4R 12F4R	N/S :Opt N/S :Opt N/S :Opt N/S :N/S N/S :N/S	:Std :Std :Std	669 874 1034 1062 1800	(1474) (1921) (2275) (2341) (3960)	(1DCV)) (1DCV) (1DCV) (1DCV) (1DCV)
Hinomoto C144 C172 C174 C174HST E2304	17 20 20 20 20 28	2.10 2.10 2.10 2.36 2.77	(84) (84) (84) (94) (111)	1.03 1.03 1.03 1.06 1.27	(41) (41) (41) (42) (51)	668 580 658 760 980	(1473) (1279) (1451) (1676) (2161)	6F 2R 9F 3R 9F 3R Hydrostatic 12F4R	N/S :N/S N/S :N/S N/S :N/S N/S :Std N/S :N/S	:Std :Std :Std	528 528 528 790 986	(1164) (1164) (1164) (1742) (2174)	(1SCV, 1DCV) N/S (1SCV, 1DCV) (1SCV, 1DCV) (1SCV, 1DCV)
Ferrari 18-3W 22-3W 22-4W 1300 Series 1300 Series 1300 Series	22 30 30 30 30 33 38	N/S 2.77 2.30 N/S N/S N/S	(111) (92)	N/S N/S 0.96 N/S N/S	(38)	N/S 910 920 N/S N/S N/S	(2007) (2029)	12F 6R 12F 6R 5F & or Hyd 12F 6R 12F 6R 12F 6R	Opt :Std Opt :Opt Opt :Std N/S :Std	:Std :Std :Std :Std :Std :Std	N/S N/S 420 N/S N/S N/S	(926)	1SCV 1SCV 1SCV, 1DCV 1SCV 1SCV 1SCV

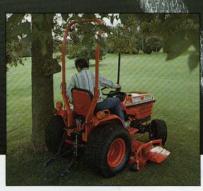
Key: N/S = Not specified (in company literature); 4F 1R x2 = Four forward, two reverse, two ratios; SCV = Single Control Valve (in brackets means option); DCV = Double Control/Acting Valve (in brackets means option). Information shown is taken from manufacturers/distributors price lists or promotional literature.

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HARDI PS De-mount Sprayer

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# Fertilisers

There are divided opinions about fertiliser usage on the golf course: those who see fertiliser as 'death' to the traditional golf course grasses and those who believe that a little 'sugar' promotes a stronger more active plant. The fertiliser manufacturers report that golf courses are using more of their products - and this also applies to 'turf conditioners' or 'growth stimulants'. Both of these latter can be defined loosely as those products which provide a range of nutrients and other essential elements and compounds, but not necessarily with a sufficient or specific level of the major nutrients of 'N P & K' (nitrogen, phosphate and potassium). Both have greenkeepers who swear by them, together with research and/or trials which shows how effective they are, but as yet they tend to remain in the realms of 'muck and mystery'. That stated, Greenkeeper International is informed that research is being undertaken to analyse the constituents of seaweed which promote root growth and tillering.

Neither fertiliser nor turf conditioner should be seen as cure-alls and it is vital to cure underlying problems such as compaction and drainage, if for no other reason than the plant cannot utilise your expensive fertiliser efficiently unless it is growing healthily. A strong healthy plant also provides maximum resistance to disease and weed infestation.

Proof of expanding demand in the market is also provided by the growing number of products being produced specifically for golf greens and similar fine turf. Agriculture has HUGH TILLEY weighs up what some greenkeepers believe is death to golf course grasses, while others reckon it's a little sugar... on Page 38, we present the range of spring and summer fertilisers available and how best to use them

seen fertiliser develop to inorganics of greater concentration, purity and consistency, and to a certain extent away from this as farmers seek cheaper materials, but the needs of amenity turf are significantly different and the goal is not maximum growth but 'wearability', health and (perhaps) grass appearance. In this market; price is not all important, (at least not to all) nor are concentration or purity. 'Organic' has become a preferred word, preferred by humans but not necessarily by a plant. However there are sound agronomic reasons for using some elements as organic compounds such as buffering and stabilising them from premature absorption or degradation.

Fertiliser is available in several forms, liquid or solid, and in many formulations from fully soluble, for foliar feeds, through suspensions (solids in water, which are seldom used on the golf course) to granulars. Foliars can be applied

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# **Fertilisers**

→ (at suitable dilution) by watering can, sprayer or even irrigation. Solid fertiliser is mostly formulated as mini-granules for better spreading and quicker easier assimilation into the soil – and away from the mower, but some are in powder form.

While it is easy and convenient to refer to specific elements by name or chemical symbol as if they were 'pure' or single atoms, in fact they only exist (in stability) as compounds chemically bonded to other elements. How they are bonded and with which other elements obviously has a great bearing on how available they are to the plant. The differences are often used as a sales pitch; this being particularly true over nitrogen, and is very easy to become confused by conflicting claims. The average green-keeper needs to develop some skepticism over competing claims and seek the reasoning behind the formulations.

For the greenkeeper a most important feature in fertilisers is safe application, and this means safeguarding against 'scorching' the leaf and also avoiding mower contamination. Nitrogen is the main culprit in scorch, particularly when it exists in purer or stronger nitrate or ammonia compounds. Most high nitrogen products include several different forms of

nitrogen, and this also extends the period of their release to the grass. However, nitrogen is the most effective element in 'greening up' the grass; and it is the major nutrient depleted when clipping are removed from the green. In excess the result is a more lax, lush, easily bruised plant of lower resistance to wear and disease.

Nitrate nitrogen is ideal for quick assimilation, while ammonia nitrogen reaches peak availability later in spring as nitrification bacteria in the soil become more active. Release of nitrogen can be modified and retarded by incorporating the nitrogen with or in various compounds; such as 'Didin,' the proprietary name for dicyandiamide, IBDU (Isobutylidene Diurea) and others, or 'Osmocote', a semi permeable organic resin coating. Didin is found in medium and high N fertilisers from ICI, Farmura and others, working by inhibiting the nitrification bacteria. IBDU is used by Fisons, Mascot,

'For the greenkeeper a most important feature in fertilisers is safe application, and this means safeguarding against 'scorching' the leaf and also avoiding mower contamination. Nitrogen is the main culprit in scorch'

Schweizer and others, while Osmacote is available from Sierra in a range specifically for turf. The release life of the differing methods varies depending upon the mechanism of release, whither soil temperature, moisture or bacterial, thus 'life' is not predictable at spreading.

The advantages of phasing release allows fewer and earlier applications to be made, and it levels out the availability of the nutrient. Sierra suggest that a single annual application is possible, whereas Didin and IBDU, only claim up to about three months, thus increasing the number of applications. It is also easy enough to 'top-up' with foliar feeds as and when weather and grass growth dictate. The other major nutrients of phosphate and potassium are significantly different as they are longer lasting and more stable in most soils, nor do they have the same dramatic visual effect, nonetheless they are essential. Potassium ('K' or potash,) is essential to disease resistance and plant hardness, and is removed with mowing. Thus annual (autumn) application is usually needed, though some may be provided by certain sands used in topdressing. Unfortu-

Tade year

nately an excess of potash free in the soil can inhibit other trace elements and nutrients.

Phosphate is most significant for root development. It too can be applied annually, though many soils – particularly clays – contain sufficient. The trend towards forming greens on sand has had a very significant effect on nutrition as most sands are poor at retaining potassium and magnesium. There is an indication from STRI and one manufacturer that there is significant advantage (on acidic sands) in providing calcium and boron too. Agriland have recently added a NPK foliar feed which includes enhanced levels of these elements.

Of other metallic elements; magnesium is vital to photosynthesis, with the obvious symptoms of deficiency being loss of leaf colour and lack of response to nitrogen. Iron is another 'visual' element which is essential for chlorophyll with application promoting a desirable dark green 'green' colour. In contrast to magnesium, iron deficiency is more likely to occur in high alkalinity soils such as chalk downlands. Iron has the other beneficial effect of suppressing moss, though how effectively will depend upon the level of inclusion. This element and other metals, particularly copper, also work as fungicides; for instance against fusarium. There are many ways in which important elements and nutrients can become 'locked-up' in the soil: excesses of one element is one common cause, cold and wet conditions are another. Wet anaerobic (oxygen-less) conditions will inhibit iron absorption (and many other plant processes).

Manganese, zinc, copper and iodine are all important at



trace levels, and these and many other compounds, vitamins and amino acids are found in seaweed. Thus the inclusion of seaweed meal or extraction in fertilisers and foliar feeds is a useful addition – and although this may be a shotgun approach it is effective, failing having a complete and detailed analysis of the soil. The word 'chelate' – pronounced key-late – is often used in conjunction with trace elements and is simply an organic compound form of the element which is readily absorbed by the plant and not locked into the soil.

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# Guide to spring and summer FERTILISERS

Supplier	Product	Type	%N	%P	%K	Other elements	Comments
Agriland Ltd. Blue Roof Farm, Throop Road, Throop, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH8 0DW. Tel: 0202 532291 Fax: 0202 535224	Classic 20-0-0 Classic 15-0-10 Classic 10-2.5-7.5 Agrimaster Agricrop	LF LF LF LF LF	20 15 10 1.2 5	0 0 2.5 4.4 .36	0 0 7.5 6 .47	4.2% Ca O, 0.1%B 0.6 Mg, Ca, Na, Fe+ as above	Fast acting ureic N Ideal for intensive use areas Ideal for sand constructions Seaweed base growth stiumulant as above plus added N & suplhur.
BASF plc Lady Lane, Hadleigh, Ipswich, Suffolk IP7 5BQ Tel: 0473 822581 Fax: 0473 827460	Floranid N Floramid NK Floramid NPK Floramid Turf	G G G	31 14 15 20	0 0 9 5	0 19 15 8	2%Mg 2%Mg 2%Mg	Based on Isodur slow release N The highest NK on market Ideal for sand or high pH Standard spring/summer use
Fairfield Turf Ltd., Fairfield Court, Brookland, Romney Marsh, Kent IN29 9RX. Tel: 06794 731	Scotts Lawnbuilder Scotts Scotts	mG mG mG	22 17 16	3 23 0	3 6 0	1.6Fe 5Fe	Vermiculite based Supplied for unit area application Metalylene Urea +iron, moss supres
Farmura Environmental Products Snow Hill, Egerton, Ashford, Kent TN27 9DU Tel: 0233 76241 Fax: 0233 76419	Flo-Gro Blue Flo-Gro Brown Flo-Glo Green Flo-Glo Yellow Flo-Glo Purple Liquid foliar feed ray	LF LF LF LF	12 12 9 18 10	0 0 3 0 0	4 4 9 0 10	0.5Fe & Mg " with added nutrient.	Incorporates Didin Incorporates Didin Organic base Wetters & iron also available
Fisons Horticulture, Paper Mill Lane, Pa	Turf Tonic Zero Phosphate Mosskiller Super N Spring & Summer Extra Organic 2	MG MG MG MG MG MG	7 14 14 24 14 14 11 raditio	0 0 0 0 2 2 0 nal fer	0 7 0 0 4 4 4 0 cilisers in	2%Fe, 1%Mg  8.9%Fe 2%Fe  n mini pelleted form for 0.5%Fe stary feed	Incorporates IBDU with MCPA & Mecoprop herbicd outfields and fairways.
CI Agrochemicals, Professional Products, Ferhurst, Haslemere, Surrey, GU27 3LE Fel: 0428 645454 Fax: 0428 657222	Longlife Spring & Summer Finegreen Nitrogen with Iron Also range for "sport	mG mG mG sfield"	14 15 8 formul	3 0 0 ations	7 5 0 for fairy	2%Mg+s/weed extrac 2%Mg as above 2.5%Fe vays including 11.6.9, 2	t included Didin, fully compounded N as sulphate of ammonia & urea 5.0.0, 14,3,7 analyses.
Maxicrop International Ltd., Weldon Road, Corby, Northants NN17 1US Tel: 0536 402182 Fax: 0536 204254	Maxicrop No. 1 Triple S'weed No. 4 Super Grass No. 5 plus Nitrogen No. 6 Seagreen No. 2 Mosskiller	LF	3 12.5 17 2 2	0.6 6.9 0 0	2.4 4.1 0.7 0	Fe,Cu,Mn,Zn,B,Mo+ Comprehensive range of traces 6%Fe +above 16.4%FeSO <sub>4</sub>	In seaweed extract base In seaweed extract base In seaweed extract base In seaweed extract base
Rigby Taylor Ltd., Rigby Taylor House, Garside Street, Bolton BL1 4AE Tel: 0204 394888 Fax: 0204 385276 (Scottish agents: Souters of Stirling)	Mascot Microfine 18-0-0 Microfine 14-4-7 Microfine 12-0-6 Microfine 8-0-0 Organic S/S2 Special Organic N Mini-Gran Supreme S/S Taylors Fairway Taylors High N Taylor Lawn Sand	mG mG mG mG P mG P	18 14 12 8 14 8 11 10 12 27.5 5.4	0 4 0 0 2 0.5 5 5 6 0	0 7 6 0 7 0.5 5 5 6 0	6%Fe 2%Mg 2%Fe, 2%Mg 4%Fe, 2%Mg 1%Mg 1.5%Fe	80%N as IBDU 50%IBDU 50%IBDU Organic slow release nitrogen Less expensive than mascot range Blend of organic/inorganics Sulphate of ammonia
Sierra UK Ltd., Loughborough Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham Fel: 0602 455100 Fax: 0602 455311	Sierrablen Turfmix Sierrablen Mini Osmocote N	mG mG G	28 25 39	5 2 0	7 10 0	Fe	6-7 month release life 6-7 month controlled release 6-7 month controlled release
Sta-brite Supplies Ltd., Unit 7 Bessemer Park, Bessemer Road, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 3NB Tel: 0256 811811 Fax: 0256 811078	Sta-Green 110 Sta-Green 195 Sta-Green 270 Sta-Green 260 Sta-Green 130 Sta-Green 140 Sta-Green 185 Schweizer Golf Sport-Green Golf Certoplant Golf Also fine granular "f	P MG MG P G G Pellet mG mG airway"	20 18 9.5	5.5 5 0 0 7 7 5.5 6 7	2.5 5 9 6.25 7 7 5.5 8 12 10	1.5%Fe 1%Mg, 1%Fe 4%Fe  1.6%Mg 1.6%Mg 3.2MgO & traces three analyses.	Course Powder, 34% organic 56% organic also contains seaweed Fairway granular organic based part IBDU and UF including slow release
Vitax Ltd., Dwen Street, Coalville, Leicester LE6 2DE Tel: (0530) 510060 Fax: (0530) 510299	Fine "N" extra Key "N" Fine "X" Lawn Sand Weed 'N Feed Micro gran 1 Micro gran 3 Micro gran 4 Also 12-6-6 and 12-6	P P P P mG mG	8 20 8 4.6 8 12 12 12	0 0 0 0 4 4 4 0 3	0 0 6 0 4.2 6 9	2.5%Fe 1.6%Mg 0.5%Mg, 1.0%Fe 1.8%Fe 0.3%Mg, 3%Fe. 0.5%Mg, 1.0%Fe 0.5%Mg, 1.0%Fe	Plus trace elements. 60%IBDU

# THINK FERTILIZER, THINK LONG

Length

All 'Longlife' products are organic based mini-granular fertilizers. As a result the granules do not stay on the surface for weeks, but breakdown within a few days, so reducing the risk of scorch and mower pick up. They are all true compounds and *not* blended fertilizers, each granule containing the desired spread of nutrients so that speckling, which can occur with blends, is prevented. All the Fine Turf and Sports Turf fertilizers contain seaweed extract to provide a source of trace elements. Six

of the products also contain the unique ingredient DIDIN. This reduces the growth flush and gives a controlled release of nitrogen, thus extending the grass feeding period from one application. DIDIN has the added benefit of reducing nitrate leaching.

The use of 'Longlife' fertilizers should be considered an integral part of any turf management programme, giving effective results at a very reasonable cost.

# FINE TURF RANGE









Product Name	Spring & Summer	Autumn Feed	Finegreen NK	Nitrogen with Iron
NPK Analysis	14:3:7	5:5:15	15:0:5	8:0:0
Other Ingredients	2% Mg, Seaweed extract	2% Mg, 11/2% Fe, Seaweed extract	2% Mg, Seaweed extract	2¹/2% Fe, Seaweed extract
Contains DIDIN	Yes	No	Yes	No
Mini-granule	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Application Rate	35–50 g per sq m 1–1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> oz per sq yd	35 g per sq m 1 oz per sq yd	$35-50$ g per sq m $1-1^{1}/2$ oz per sq yd	$35-50$ g per sq m $1-1^{1}/2$ oz per sq yd
Area Treated	500–710 sq m 585–880 sq yd	710 sq m 880 sq yd	500–710 sq m 585–880 sq yd	500–710 sq m 585–880 sq yd
Bag Size	25 kg	25 kg	25 kg	25 kg

# SPORTS FIELD RANGE







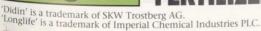


<b>Product Name</b>	Spring & Summer	Autumn Feed	Nitrogen	Plus
NPK Analysis	11:6:9	10:10:15	25:0:0	14:3:7
Other Ingredients	1% Mg, Seaweed extract	Seaweed extract	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> % Mg, Seaweed extract	2% Mg, 2,4-D, dicamba, Seaweed extract
Contains DIDIN	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mini-granule	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Application Rate	$35-50$ g per sq m $1-1^{1}/2$ oz per sq yd	35 g per sq m 1 oz per sq yd	$35-50$ g per sq m $1-1^{1}/2$ oz per sq yd	35 g per sq m 1 oz per sq yd
Area Treated	500–710 sq m 585–880 sq yd	710 sq m 880 sq yd	500–710 sq m 585–800 sq yd	710 sq m 880 sq yd
Bag Size	25 kg	25 kg	25 kg	25 kg

AD REF 54









## **Professional Products**

'Longlife' Plus contains 2,4-D and dicamba. READ THE LABEL BEFORE YOU BUY: USE PESTICIDES SAFELY.

# **Fertilisers**

### 'It is often easy (even desirable) to carry out your own mini-trials'

37 ➤ Soil analysis can be a useful guide to soil nutrient status but there are some reservations about just how useful. It must be realised that the analysis only refers to that particular sample, ie – if you take several cores and mix them you get averaged results – this may not tell you maximum and minimum levels at any one spot, which may be more useful. On the other hand taking a multitude of cores across the whole course is usually expensive and impractical except for quick and cheap tests (such as for pH), thus a more useful practice may be to take one or two cores from areas of satisfactory growth and the same from 'problem' or less satisfactory areas, which will allow for better comparison.

The time and method of sampling can also cause distortion of results: a hand auger can take a disproportionate volume of soil from one level without providing a true profile of the soil and may not include *all* the soil available to the root system. In addition, recent fertiliser applications can cause distortion. Most analyses of P & K use the MAFF ADAS 0-5 scale where O equals no trace and 2 is 'ideal', and this provides a simple and effective guide for applications of these nutrients. Most suppliers give a guide to application rates based on these; however it must be remembered that such figures are only a guide. Some DIY soil test kits are available but these are limited in scope. How useful any one course manager will find them will depend on his attitude, and perhaps on his knowledge of basic soil chemistry.

Minor nutrient and trace element analysis and recommen-

dations are less well defined, with interpretation often dependent on the advisor. Fortunately most plant deficiencies produce classic symptoms and these can usually be used as a guide, either for more detailed analysis or for a trial application of a specific remedy. However it must be remembered that deficiencies – and thus symptoms – are often transitory, caused by weather or other temporary conditions such as drought, water-logging or cold, or even a spell of rapid growth.

There is an abundance of advice freely available on most matters effecting golf turf, (not always welcome or 'useful'), which often leaves the greenkeeper with the problem of selecting which to 'hear' and which to ignore. Fortunately most traditional greenkeepers are imbued with a healthy scepticism.

It is often easy (even desirable) to carry out your own mini-trials, and while results may not be scientifically valid they often give valuable indications of the effect of specific nutrition and management programmes: on *your* course, with *your* management and under *your* conditions. What works for one greenkeeper may not work for another, but with range of fertiliser and growth promotion products now available it is easy to select materials which meet your requirements for turf nutrition with greater precision than ever before.

• Hugh Tilley is a regular contributor to Greenkeeper International. His special interests include machinery, management, safety and agrochemicals.

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