

MAINTAINING SEASIDE BENT GREENS

Our season begins with a treatment for snow mold control during the fall season. This year it was applied on the 24th day of November at the rate of three (3) oz. of Calo-Clor and six (6) oz. of Tersan per 1000 square feet.

Next corn gluten was applied at the rate of 30 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. around the 15th of December.

The second application of fungicide is applied as soon as the first snow melts even if there is more winter weather ahead. This program is continued until all the snow has melted and the greens are dry. At this time our first mowing is done. We use the wire brush in front of a greensmower and mow the greens 4 times with the brush on; after that we maintain a cutting height of 3/16th of an inch.

The first application of fertilizer is applied normally the first week of May providing the weather is good. Four (4) applications of 12-6-6 are put on at 2 week intervals at the rate of 5 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. We then apply 1 lb. Urea 45 percent every ten (10) days until the first Monday after Labor Day. Here again we go back to our spring program and put on 5 lbs. of 12-6-6 per 1000 sq. ft. in order to get three (3) applications on. This brings our total to approximately eleven (11) pounds Nitrogen, three (3) pounds Phosphate; six (6) pounds Potash - per 1000 sq. ft.

Our spray program is started as soon as there are signs of need for it. This year we started the early part of June and continued through the middle of September using 1 oz. of P.M.A.S. and 3 oz. of Thiram per 1000 sq. ft. every ten (10) days until July 10th. At this time we added 2 oz. of Z78 (Zinc) and 1/4 oz. Sulphate of Iron. We continued this every 7 days until September 18th and did not spray again until November 24th.

Our mowing program consisted of mowing 7 days

a week until September 11 and 6 days a week after that until October 1st.

Power spiking started June 12 and was done every Monday, weather permitting, until August 28th.

We airfied greens on June 5th with West Point 1/2 inch thatch spoons two directions; length-ways and cross-ways.

September 18th we Aero thatched 1/2 of all greens; two weeks later we finished the other half of the greens.

Point O' Woods Golf & Country Club, Benton Harbor, Michigan. — Norm Kramer, Supt.

MAINTAINING BLUEGRASS FAIRWAYS

I have looked back 5 years concerning the maintenance practices of my watered bluegrass and must say the word maintenance has meant 4 basic steps; Fertilization, watering, mowing and weed control.

Fertilization, I think, must come first. I say this because I have seen what a regular, amply supplied fertilizer program can do for bluegrass. Beginning with the early fall of 1957 and continuing right through this fall I have religiously applied 500 lbs. per acre of low nitrogen fertilizer every fall and 600 lbs. of high nitrogen every spring. This, to my way of thinking has been the most beneficial move I have ever made at the Aurora Country Club. There is no doubt in my mind that this fertilizing has brought about improvements in the texture of the turf that I feel I cannot get along without. I have to think many times how I would react if I were forgotten or even shorted when it comes time for dinner. I'm quite sure my bluegrass feels the same way.

Now that we've got the turf growing good, it's got to be mowed to keep our golfers happy. My fairway mowers start out every spring cutting at 1-1/4" and stay there all year long. Mowing at this height has helped me in controlling the moving in of many weeds and seems to be keeping the poa from spreading and taking over too greatly. There has been a bare mini-

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mum of complaining from my members about the height of our fairways and as long as this keeps up, both of us will be happy. I keep one, seven gang unit, going continuously all week long, play permitting. The speed of the tractor, to insure a nice smooth cut, is kept at a slow pace at all times. My fairway man does a very nice job of alternating his direction of mowing 4 different ways. Clockwise and counter clockwise, from outside in, striping, and crossing. To eliminate needless wear and tear, our approaches that are narrowed by traps, are cut with a three gang power mower. We have enough scooters roaring around on these approaches, let alone our fairway unit adding to this problem.

The watering of our fairways is held to a bare minimum. By this I mean, no water is put on until they show signs of spot blueing, and even then just enough to snap them back. Through a dry spell the sprinklers are never left on more than 1 hour per setting. More often one half hour is all they get, just enough to keep the top soil moist. I watched grass go out on our fairways this year when the amount of water could not be controlled. This convinced me even more that watering can very definitely do just as much harm as it can good. I have some approaches that to avoid over-watering we hand water them right along with the greens and collars. An approach is probably the most important part of any fairway and certainly not the spot to get too much water.

The one thing we have left now is weed control. Here I have found that if the fertilizing, height of cut, and watering has been cared for properly our weed problem doesn't usually become too severe. Liquid sprays of 24D and 245T applied in the spring when plants are young and tender have controlled our broadleaf weed problem. These sprayings are also keeping clover at a minimum. Lead arsenate, at the rate of 250 pounds per acre, is put on early in the spring. This is done to six fairways a year, on a rotating basis. Spot treating of chick weed as it shows up, seems to be the inexpensive, as well as, effective way to control this weed. The lead is applied by shaking it out of a small salt sack directly to the plant. For good absorption by the plant we do this job early in the mornings when there is dew on the turf.

Carl Hopphan, Aurora Country Club
Prairie at Western, Aurora, Illinois

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