

SOMETHING NEW IN FERTILIZERS AND THE METHOD OF APPLICATION

Kahn Bros. recently announced the production of a sludge fertilizer with the analysis of 5-5-0 that has been pelletized. This was done to present a fertilizer that can be used in the new whirlwind type fairway fertilizer spreaders. It also has a slower release of Nitrogen which may be beneficial during the hot weather.

The AGRICO people have a new method of applying fertilizer to the close cut turf families to golf courses. The new method is called "Hydraulic Feeding". It is a method of applying complete fertilizers to tees, aprons and greens, combining ease, safety and speed, *without* regard to temperature, wind or wet grass.

Feeding grass by the hydraulic method, which utilizes water pressure, eliminates the danger of burning and streaking. Players can walk over the green immediately after application without creating foot prints. An average green of 5,000 sq. ft. can be treated in 10 minutes or less.

Procedure

The first step in this feeding procedure is to pour 20 to 25 gallons of water into a barrel having a capacity from 30 to 55 gallons. The extra room in the barrel allows vigorous agitation without splashing or spilling. Next, the fertilizer is dumped into the water creating a slurry. The amount of fertilizer to be added is based on the recommended rate of application and the size of the green.

How It Works

Vigorous agitation of the slurry during the application is essential. This may be accomplished by means of a canoe paddle by hand, or by a recently developed power unit.

Actual application works best as a two man operation although one man can handle it alone. If the agitation must be accomplished manually, the second man is indispensable. On extremely large greens, the second man can assist in handling the hose. The man handling the nozzle starts pacing the green, swinging the hose slowly in a swath 8 to 12 feet wide. A second is made at right angles to the first, thus assuring even distribution. The principle of water seeking its own level carries the fertilizer to the soil zone. Ordinarily, no further watering is necessary unless heavier applications are made than recommended. Under such circumstances, a 10 minute watering period may be desirable.

General

Hydraulic feeding operates most efficiently at water pressures ranging from 40 lbs. and upwards.

In practice hydraulic feeding pays for itself many times over. It saves time and labor and permits safe feeding of greens, aprons and tees spring, summer or fall.

Two common analysis' are available 12-4-8 and 7-0-0. These have 50% and 75% organic Nitrogen included respectively.

Some fertilizer manufacturers and distributors are now offering a program to the turf manager whereby they will furnish a spreader to the purchaser for distributing their product. The field is certainly getting competitive and the prices are indicative of the competition.

Another new fertilizer is on the market that has been coated for controlled release, similar to some of the cold tablets that are on the market. You will be reading more about this product in the near future.

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