

SUMMER PERSPECTIVE

May 25, 1966

What promised to be an early Spring and an early golf playing season, turned out to be a cold, wet and late season. In the last week of May, this weather pattern promises to reverse itself and we now predict a drier and warmer June. Bets are being taken at "Window #10."

During the last week of May, the grass was in an explosive condition with spring applications of fertilizer and too much water culminating in lush growth. With the advent of drier and warmer weather, a deterioration may set in in June, calling for a feeding with an organic fertilizer in conservative amounts. On irrigated turf, this will assure a more uniform turf condition during the summer. Some users prefer to make light applications monthly. On non-irrigated turf, an application of an organic feeding in June, will result in better and greener turf during July and August, when rainfall is expected to be at a minimum.

After consultation with Charles W. Wilson, Agronomist for Milorganite, who has conducted experiments for a number of years to establish the best times of the year and the number of times organic fertilizer applications are most effective, we find surprisingly one or two i.e. spring and/or fall applications show up real well, though many superintendents prefer a number of light applications during the summer months.

Labor continues to be the golf superintendent's number one problem. While this will be alleviated somewhat with the availability of college and high school students shortly, this does not solve the problem. It will be with the superintendents again after Labor Day. There is no indication of the tight labor situation being reversed. Unless the Viet Nam war is ended, factories producing for the Armed Services will out-bid civilian enterprises for labor.

The recent slump in the securities markets seems increases on all machinery for the next season. This is only a correction of over-population. We predict price again is essentially due to increased labor costs, taxes and overhead. Like with the weatherman, there should be a margin for mistakes. When a prognosticator is right, he points with pride; if he is wrong, he likes to forget. Therefore, take this information with the usual "two grains of salt."

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