

Overhead Bulk Storage Bins

By Ed Devinger

In searching for new ideas and ways to make the job of fertilizing more convenient and less time consuming, I questioned the men who are now using them. These Superintendents are John Jackman (Medinah C. C.), Amos Lapp (St. Andrews C. C.), and George Dallman (Cog Hill G. C.).

The bin is made of plywood and can be constructed to any desired size. It stands 20 ft. high, the clearance is 8 ft. from the bottom of the bin. Each section is 4 ft. wide and will hold 250 cubic feet of fertilizer. The reason that it is stated this way is due to the wide variance in fertilizer density. (i.e. chemical fertilizer will average about 55 pounds per cubic foot. Sludge is only 35 pounds per cubic foot.)

The total cost will vary according to size and the price of lumber, but a 5 section bin or 1250 cubic feet will cost about \$2500. Amos Lapp said that his bin paid for itself in 2 years.

The life of the bin is expected to be about 10 years. This can be prolonged with proper care.

John, Amos, and George spoke very highly of the operation and stated that they would never go back to the bag by bag fertilization method. They agree that it's great not to have to handle it until they are ready to put it on.

Here are some topics concerning the bin and their comments:

(1) Mobility? —

All agreed that it was excellent when the bin was empty.

(2) Is it practical —

John: It should be bigger. (His will hold 20 tons of chemical fertilizer but only 13 tons of Mil.)

George: I want one that will hold 24 tons of Mil. (6 sec.)

Amos: The Golf Course must be 18 holes or more to make the bin pay for itself.

(3) Loading & Unloading —

John: It must have a loading pipe on each end. It takes only 30 seconds to load the spreader with 1200 lbs. of fertilizer.

Amos: I have had no problems.

George: The bin should be lower to the ground, and the legs wider apart.

(4) Size —

John & Amos: It must be large enough to hold 20 tons of Milorganite.

George: Should be large enough to hold 21 or 22 tons of Milorganite.

(5) Disadvantages —

John: Chemical fertilizer has a slight tendency to set up, but not a problem.

Amos: None, the distance from bins to all fairways is no problem.

George: Absolutely none.

(6) Improvements —

John: Should be weather proofed better.

George: A round, upright bin may be better, silo-type.

(7) Savings —

Amos: It saves me at least \$10 per ton on my fertilizer and its application.

George: I'd say it saves me \$15 per ton.

(8) Comments —

John: I can fertilize all the fairways that are to be watered that evening. I can do the fertilizing myself to insure better application. "I like it. I feel it saves us quite a bit in labor and money. It would be pretty hard to go back to the old method. I don't even remember how we used to do it."

Amos: I'm very happy with it. I can save \$10 a ton plus convenience and time. I wouldn't have it any other way. I think every superintendent should investigate the possibility of having these bins either by purchase or lease. I saw it first at Medinah. I ordered one and called George and he looked at it and ordered one. When we can get our work done in a hurry, just as efficiently, it is a great asset.

George: It is very handy. One man can do 2-3 acres with Milorganite in half an hour. Also, I fertilize more often, putting less on each time.

Each superintendent extends an open invitation, to anyone who is interested, to stop by and take a look at it. Also, anyone wishing further information, can contact me.

RAY DAVIS RETIRES

Ray Davis has retired from the industry after a lifetime of service to golf courses in the Chicago District.

Ray was a native of southern Indiana, and over the many years of active service retained his dry Indiana humor that has won him many friends.

During the last 46 years he has served Twin Orchard, Medinah Country Club, North Shore Country Club and Arlington Park Country Club. Ray put on excellent dances as chairman of the entertainment committee for four years and further served the Midwest as President for two terms with great distinction.

He is the father of five children and the grandfather of five grandchildren.

Ray and Mrs. Davis have purchased a home in North Port Charlotte, Florida, and will be in that area from now on. Our finest wishes go with Mr. and Mrs. Davis.

DONALD J. MASKE JOINS TUCO

Donald J. Maske has been named sales representative for TUCO Agricultural Chemical Sales, Division of The Upjohn Company. He reports to H. Hoover Thomas, District Sales Manager, and is responsible for sales in the Midwestern District with headquarters in Chicago.

Don received a B.S. degree in chemistry from Lewis College, Lockport, Illinois. He also completed the two year turf management course at Pennsylvania State University. Don has been active in the turf industry for nine years having worked for Walter Fuchs at Glen Eagles Country Club and Warren Bidwell at Olympia Fields and Philadelphia Country Clubs. Before joining TUCO, Don held the position of golf course superintendent at Cold Spring Country Club, Cold Spring Harbor, New York.