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(Nutrition cont'd.)

- More roots are observed under conditions of moisture stress.
- Hardiness is related to soil temperature (both hot and cold) and only indirectly to air temperature. Nitrogen to potassium balances are important in the promotion of turf hardiness - 2 to 1 or 3 to 2 (nitrogen to potassium). This balance is needed year round.
- With more potassium, there is less wear damage on turf. Up to 3.6 pounds of potassium per 1,000 square feet per year have been found beneficial.
- Addition of potassium has led to increased resistance of turf to brown patch, dollar spot and fusarium.
- Potassium is subject to luxury consumption by turfgrasses. High levels are not needed but grasses accumulate it anyway. After growth rates increase with added potassium, concentrations of potassium in the soil are seldom adequate. These need to be increased for maintenance of healthy turf.
- Sulfur was thought for years not to be a limiting factor in the growth of turfgrass.
- Sulfur availability is reduced at pH levels below 6. At that point the foliage looks like there is a nitrogen deficiency.
- Iron is the most likely micro-nutrient to become deficient. Zinc and copper are heavy metals that do not move much in the soil. Higher than normal concentrations can lead to toxicity. Iron is required in very small amounts. At pH above 7, there is reduced availability.
- Iron is important for root and shoot growth for drought hardiness and for dark green foliage.
- Intervenal yellowing of the youngest leaves develops as iron becomes deficient.

- A foliar application of iron can produce a response in just 30 minutes.
- In turfgrass nutrition, nitrogen and potassium are the key.
- Nitrogen requirements of the turf are based on need indicators - pounds of nitrogen per growing month per 1000 square feet.
- Zero nitrogen is the lowest and the highest amount of nitrogen ranges from 0.5 to 1.5 pounds per 1000 square feet.
- The objective of turfgrass management is to grow grass and maintain the existing quality of turf.
- There are timing guidelines for use of nitrogen:
  - not during heat stress;
  - not during drought stress;
  - 30 to 40 days prior to winter where turf is subject to snow mold and winter kill, nitrogen should not be used;
  - watch for disease proneness;
  - watch for weed infestations.
- Use potassium in mid-summer where traffic is a problem.
- Use nitrogen after slicing and aerification.
- Use nitrogen after disease has run its course.
- Use phosphorus based on soil test results. Also, base potassium application on soil test results.
- Sixty five to eighty five percent of the nitrogen applied may be matched 1 to 1 with potassium.
- Iron can function as a part of the nitrogen requirement by substituting it for nitrogen. Use iron at 2 ounces per 1000 square feet.
- From day 1 to day 5 following mowing, there is a 40 percent increase in the water use rate as leaves regrow.
- Eighty to Ninety percent of the water lost by turf is through stomata. Most stomata close at mid-day and stay closed for a couple of hours. There is not as much foliar absorption if iron during this period.

Credit: Turf 2/90

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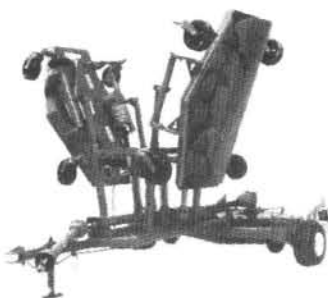
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