



West Coast Buccaneers



By REED LeFEBVRE
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Fall fertilizing involves more than just dumping 10 or 15 tons of fertilizer on the golf course and then praying for rain to wash it in.

First, fertilizers come in many grades and many different mixtures, each with its own benefits. Many of the elements that make up many of the blends are found naturally in different types of soil, therefore if your soil is abundant in phosphorus for example, then you would be wasting money to add more phosphorus. The key to fertilizing is the question "What may be added to assure the desired results under the conditions of growth and use of the area?"

Once it is determined what element or elements are going to be needed to achieve the above goal, then we can start to look around for the blend that will take care of our needs.

Fertilizers fall into several categories, ranging from an all organic to a straight chemical blend. Many of the popular blends are a combination of both the above.

Generally the organic fertilizers won't burn where your chemical blends do have that tendency. However, if cost is a factor, then you may put up with a little burn in order to be able to put out as much of the material as needed.

Here on the west coast, it appears as though most of the superintendents go with a high nitrogen and high potassium mix when they fertilize in the fall. High nitrogen being used just because bermuda grass needs high amounts, the high potassium is used in the fall to help strengthen the grass cell structure to withstand the cold and frost conditions.

Many superintendents take the opportunity to add herbicides with the mix at this time to take care of their pre-emergents. Kerb is commonly used at this time.

On the greens which are to be overseeded, generally regular fertilization is cut back, especially with nitrogen, and

just before overseeding a preplant fertilizer is used, a 5-15-15 mix seems to be very popular. Once the overseeding is up, a lot of the fellas like to use IBDU to keep the amount of nitrogen available under rather strict control.

Summing up, fertilizing is a custom operation, the type of fertilizer used depends on local conditions at the time it is put out and may even vary green to green on some courses, but the end result is the same. Use the elements your turf needs for the conditions it will be subject to. ■

WEST COAST ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

At the July meeting of the Florida West Coast Chapter held July 19th at the Countryside Country Club in Clearwater, the following were elected as officers of the Florida West Coast GCSA for 1982:

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JOHN LUPER, CGCS

Countryside Country Club in Clearwater

Vice-President:

DON DELANEY, CGCS

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