



Suncoast Sails

by ALLEN HANCHEY
Meadows Country Club

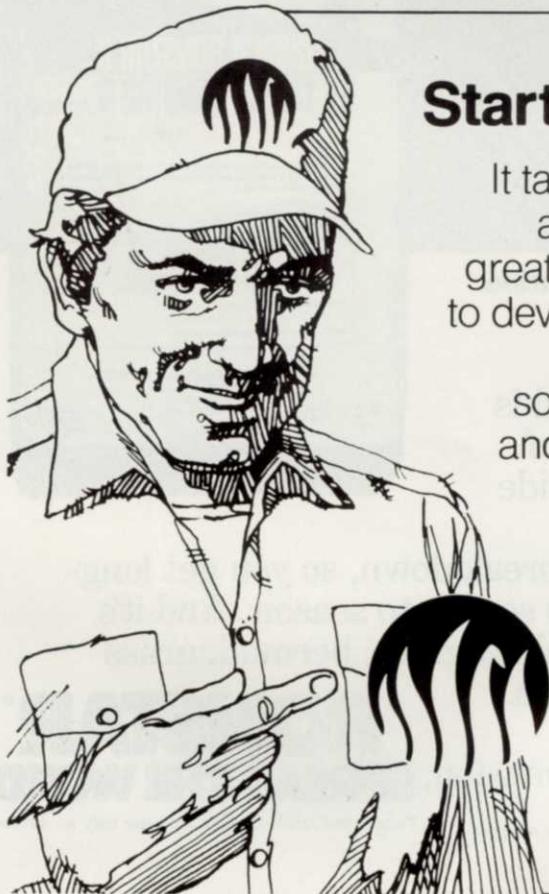
Fertilization during the fall and winter months probably has as great of an effect on the success of our golf course during the season as any other single maintenance program. At this time of the year there may not be a chance to "catch up" once behind on a fertilization program. Due to the distinct possibility of several heavy frosts between December 15 & March 1, the turf must enter this period in top nutritional condition. For this reason most superintendents in this area consider September, October and November as key months in preparation for the winter season.

In general, fertilization of fairways is increased to 1 lb/1000 or more of N during the months of September, October and November. Some sample programs include: 1) Larry Weber, Palm Aire Country Club — 1½ lb. N/1000 from 16-4-16 with 4 units IBDU & minors in September and six weeks later 1 lb. N from 16-4-8 containing minors. 2) Hugh Bebout, Sara Bay Country Club — one or more applications of a chemical fertilizer followed by one or more applications of an organic fertilizer. Hugh feels that an organic fertilizer will tend to stay in the root zone

enabling the roots to stay warmer during the middle of winter or dormant period. 3) Mac Bough, Longboat Key Club — one application of 8-1-3/kerb at 1 lb N/1000 during September followed in October by application of 5-10-15 at 1 lb N/1000. 4) Allen Hanchey, Meadows Country Club — September application of granular 16-4-8/minors if a specific need to bring nutrition back into balance as a result of soil test or use liquid injection system 12-0-6. In general apply 1 lb./N/1000 per month thru season. In general, potassium levels are obviously increased.

For greens, fertilization is also at a rate of 1 lb. N/1000 per month. Weber alternates application of 9-3-6 containing sulfur coated urea and 8-1-8 containing IBDU approximately every two weeks, whereas Bough uses straight IBDU once per month supplemented by foliar applications of ferrous ammonium sulphate and potassium nitrate.

Although methods and materials used certainly will differ from course to course, the objective of fall fertilization is certainly to have the turf in top nutritional condition for the season. ■



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