

Central Florida Crowfoots



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Here at Spruce Creek Golf Club, Daytona Beach, I have overseeded all areas except my fairways. The preparation that went into this area is making sure that prior to the first frost my nutrient levels are at levels that are acceptable for our conditions. I applied a 31-0-0 Fairway Fertilizer approximately one month prior to the cold weather at 1/2 lbN/1000. During the cold months of December, January, February and March I will apply ammonium sulfate at a rate of 200 lbs/A and I will keep our fairways at 1/2" cut. Hopefully we will be able to hold our color longer with these practices.

For my ornamentals I will have to make sure that we use only "Cold" hardy plants in all our landscape plans. Even these will have to have their nutrient levels correctly planned so they are very healthy even throughout the coldest times.

At Sugar Mill Golf Course, New Smyrna Beach, Mike Beard has to make sure that the proper pH is holding in the soil. Since Mike has a normally high pH he applies sulfur to his turf to keep his nutrient levels where they should be. After a few frosts he will cut out his brownish leaf tissue (Dormant Bermuda) to let his fairways and roughs have a neater appearance.

Sugar Mills ornamentals are treated constantly with Elemental Sulfur. Again, his soil requires it. Also Mike is on a spray adjuvant program to build up the hardiness of his ornamentals. Last winter they went through six frosts before they had to cut off any damaged leaves. Mike attributes this to his adjuvant spray applications.

At Indigo Golf Club, Bob Williams, superintendent, Daytona Beach, will make sure that his nutrient levels in his soil are also where they should be. Bob applied a 13-2-5 granular fertilizer to his roughs and fairways at 450 lbs/A prior to the predicted cold weather. His Dolomite application of 1 ton/A prior to the cold weather should,

according to Bob, help his release of nutrients to the plant tissue.

Indigo's only trouble with ornamentals is their potted crotons. The crotons will have to be taken in each time a frost or freeze is predicted for the area.

At Walt Disney World, Larry Kamphaus, superintendent, applied a liquid fertilizer (Fertigation) 10-0-10 ratio on the fairways and roughs at a total rate of 1 1/2 lb/1000 since August. The fertigation practice will be continued throughout the winter months.

Walt Disney's ornamentals are of no concern. All of their plants are "Cold" hardy. Any damage they receive will be trimmed where possible.

At Rosemont Country Club, Orlando, Drew Costello has raised his height of cut in his roughs to 1 1/2" and will be keeping his fairways at 3/8". Drew fertilized his fairways and roughs with a 15-0-15 slow release fertilizer at 250 lbs/A.

Rosemont's ornamentals are of no concern since they are "Cold" hardy plants. Drew has planted countless numbers of petunias which should make for a showy, flowery appearance throughout the course.

In summary it seems that in our area your nutrient level was the one item that everyone made sure was where it should be. We need to make sure that the Bermudagrass is as healthy as can be going into the "cold" weather so when the "warm" weather hits it will come out with flying colors.

The ornamentals should be planned for the seasons. There should be no "tropical" plants that are not adapted to our cold winter freezes. If you have some, when a frost hits they become brownish and unsightly. It is a general opinion that you use only "Cold" hardy plants that can withstand temperatures as low as 15°F. ■