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Problems may appear in the form of a spongy upper layer, perhaps resulting from on-site mixing during construction, which has left excessive quantities of organic material in the upper portion of the green. This is more difficult to correct, although the same basic technique may be tried. It is sometimes necessary to remove the sod and remix the seedbed before real gains can be made.

The upper layer may be hard and compacted, indicating an excess of silt and clay in the topdressing material, often in combination with very fine sand. Here again a very clean medium to fine sand may be employed in conjunction with aerification. It can be helpful to add up to 10 percent peatmoss in this instance.

Beyond the top three inches or so, it is almost impossible to make significant changes in the green's behavior using topdressing modifications. New technologies developing in some areas may make it possible to modify most of the seedbed. Time and experience will give us a better idea of their long-term effectiveness.

A current trend, which has caused many problems, is the building up of a sand layer on top of greens that are basically soil in order to improve putting speed. While it is possible to modify the greens in this manner, it should be done gradually over a couple of years rather than in an abrupt changeover. The modifying sand should be selected and mixed into the existing topdressing in a ratio of about 25 percent of volume. This material should be used several times and then further divided into a 50-50 proportion for several more topdressings. Continue increasing the quantity of sand in the topdressing until roughly a two-inch transition layer has been built up. This slower procedure usually allows the soil and sand to blend well enough for water to be moved as if there were no change. The infiltration rate will be that of the soil portion of the green, of course. Regular aerification should be done throughout the transition period, and cores should be removed each time.

If the original material of which a good green is built becomes unavailable for topdressing purposes, it is crucial to locate the closest possible substitute. This can be done by taking the particle analysis of the original sand to area sand suppliers to seek a match. Fortunately, similar sands are often available from the same area.

Locating a close substitute will allow a continuing successful topdressing program.

Regular examinations of the seedbed using this core sampling technique are helpful in becoming aware of problems before they develop into serious conditions. Success or failure often takes place on the worm's eye level.

Topdressing is more than a filler. It plays an active part in keeping good greens good, golfers happy, costs down, and aggravations to a manageable level. These are goals well worth pursuing. ■

Power Spread Added to Lesco Line

The new *LESCO Gasoline—Powered Hydraulic-Driven Spreader* provides smoother, easier application of granular material.

Hydraulic drive enables the spreader operator to select a constant speed, from zero to four miles per hour. This provides a constant rate of application of product and, thereby a cost savings to the customer.

Available from *LESCO, Inc.*, Rocky River, OH, the *LESCO Gasoline-Powered Hydraulic—Driven Spreader* features an 80-pound capacity polyethylene hopper, corrosion-resistant Delrin 100 gears and third hole on shut-off plate with adjustable metering slide for varying product bulk densities. The stainless steel frame provides durability and strength; extra-long stainless steel handles allow for easy maneuvering. The durable bumper/handle on the front of the spreader protects the impeller and makes carrying easier. The stainless steel axle, impeller shaft and on/off assembly are durable and corrosion resistant.

The engine on the *LESCO GASOLINE POWERED HYDRAULIC—DRIVEN SPREADER* is a three horsepower recoil-start Briggs & Stratton Industrial/Commercial. The hydraulics consist of a pump and motor combination with a one-gallon hydraulic reservoir. The spreader has 13x5.00-6 pneumatic tires.

A hopper cover to protect product and allow spreader to be transported without being emptied is available as an option. ■



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