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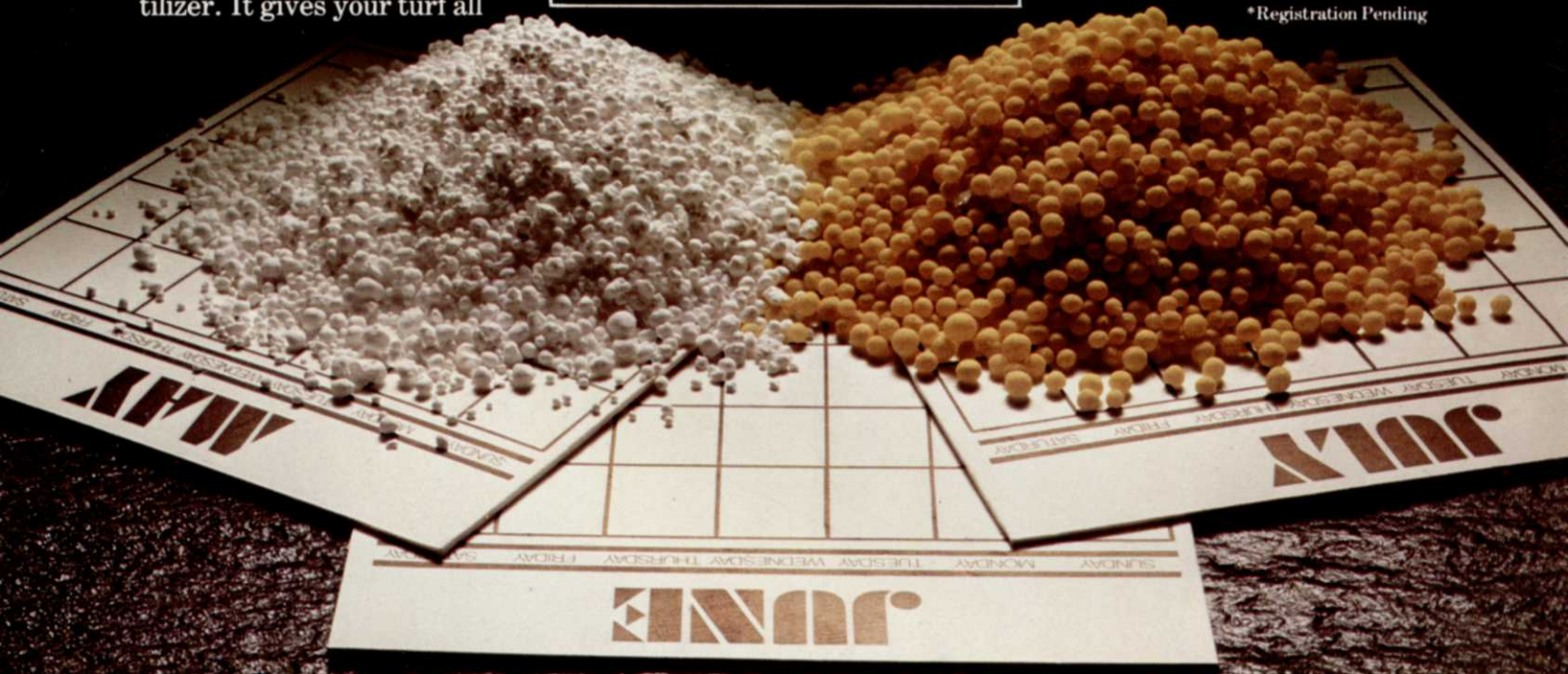
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President's Message

After having the pleasure of addressing you on seven occasions thru the President's Message, I find it difficult to put into words my feelings as I realize this will be my last opportunity to deliver a sermon.

First and foremost, I want to thank everyone for permitting me to serve for the past two years as President of your organization, the Florida Golf Course Superintendent's Association. I have done it proudly and with deep humility. Nothing can be more self-rewarding than to be recognized as the leader of an organization which has accomplished so much and which has created such a favorable impact on that segment of our society in which it is so deeply involved. I take great pride in our success because I know the future will be even better.

Undoubtedly, I have not influenced our industry nearly as much as the close relationship with many of my peers has influenced me. I can honestly say that I have benefited greatly from my experiences and feel that I am a better person because of them. It has been a truly rewarding time.

As I review the past and momentarily revel in the attainment of goals, I quickly realize that we must not look back, but rather be constantly alerted to the uncertainties of tomorrow. This is made a great deal easier when one recognizes the tremendous wealth of qualified professionals who are dedicating their lives to our existence. The list of extremely competent individuals, both in our state and throughout the nation, is endless. We have come a long way and yet we have only scratched the surface. Modern innovative ideas wed to the spectacular achievements of electronic wizardry and cost in the molds of well-educated and devoted superintendents who delight in daily combats with Mother Nature will lead us down the path to unthought-of excellence. Be part of this migration! Participate! You don't get interest back until you make a deposit! I guarantee you can never put in as much as you will receive!

To my fellow officers and members of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association Executive Committee, I extend a sincere thank you for your cooperation and loyalty. It has truly been a pleasure working with you. May your futures be as bright as you have made my present.

To all the members of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association, I again say thank you for the privilege of serving you. It has been two of the busiest years of my life and yet I recognize the inability to accomplish all of my personal goals. But I step down knowing your organization is in even better hands.

No lecture this time — just a challenge — let's all strive to do a better job in all aspects of our daily lives — there is always room for improvement.

Best regards to all. ■



The Florida Green

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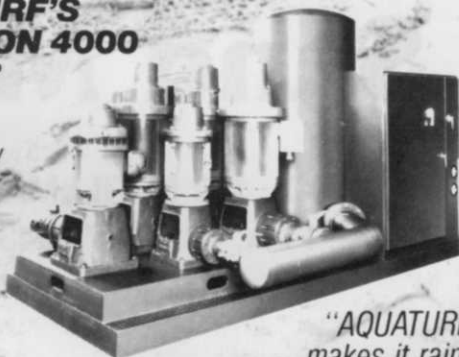
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Budget Bonuses

By MEL WEINSTEIN

Several years ago, while doing some consulting work, I came across a very experienced Superintendent. He was one of the most knowledgeable men in the "Greenkeeping Art" that I had ever encountered. After a review of his golf course we compiled a list of deficiencies and a list of improvements that were necessary to bring the course into top condition. I left the list with him, and when I returned several days later, we reviewed the entire project. He advised me that he had analyzed every thing and the total cost of both the deficiencies and improvements would come to fifty thousand dollars. Most of the cost consisted of labor. When we got through that season, 75% of the work was done. The total additional cost of labor was zero and the material cost was only \$1,500. How it was done is a "BUDGET BONUS."

We all work on budgets. For most courses the budget is very tight, but even in the tightest budget there is room for extra work and improvements for the course. This outline will show how any one of us can do it.

The first step is for the Superintendent and the Chairman to go out onto the course; going from hole to hole, they should compile a written list of the various jobs that are to be done. This generally will not take too much time, no more than several hours. The list is then organized and analyzed. A sample of the type of listing would be as follows: Hole #1

- a) Tee needs extra top dressing & aerification
- b) There is puddling near first mound on left
- c) Sprinkler does not reach far enough (near 150 yd. marker)
- d) Left front green trap has large rock
- e) Small depression, left rear of green
- f) Woods back of green need thinning out

The Superintendent and Chairman then review the list to determine which items have first priority, second, etc. A

period of time is then set to accomplish the work. I recommend the shortest time to be three months and the longest to be six months.

The Superintendent then agrees, or contracts, to complete the work within that period. This is a give and take situation whereby some of the jobs are postponed to a subsequent period. Once the contract is made it is entirely up to the Superintendent to produce the desired results.

The list is now in front of him for this particular period. He knows what materials are needed and he should bring them on the premises to be used on a moment's notice. What is that moment's notice? We all know that there are plenty of times when the cutting is all caught up. Time when the grass is not growing. Times when golf play is low or very busy. Times when weather conditions discourage normal maintenance. These and many other circumstances are the time and moment to make your move. You now know what is expected. You have made the contract. There is no more thinking what is my crew going to do today?

I personally feel that if 75% of the contract is fulfilled, then a good job was done. All we would do with the leftovers is add them to the next period.

A program of this type over a period of years will accomplish tremendous results. Results in improving the condition and appearance of your golf course. Results in proving to management what a great job you can do. Results in saving your club thousands of dollars. It is these results that all add up to your course always being in fine condition. After a period of time you'll be working on those little niceties that all golfers appreciate. They'll be even more appreciative when they learn it's not costing them anything extra. ■

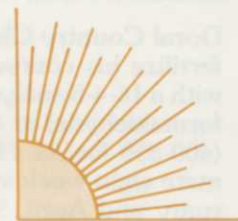


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By BRAD G. KOCHER
Inverrary Country Club

Fall Fertilization

No matter how you apply it, fall is the time to increase turfgrass nutritional levels in South Florida. The bermudagrass generally does not go dormant as it does in the northern half of the State, and high nutrition levels are necessary to keep the turf healthy and vigorous.

Sixty to seventy percent of our annual play occurs here when the bermudagrass is least likely to grow. We experience temperatures as low as the high 20's during the November to April months with mid-40's, 50's and 60's being the average morning low.

Additionally, the hours of daylight may be as little as eleven hours compared to our long summer daylight hours of up to fourteen to fourteen and a half hours further putting a stress on bermudagrass that does not want to grow.

September through December are the most important months to prepare for the less than ideal growing conditions that prevail particularly from mid-December to the beginning of March. If we get behind in our nutrition levels during these months, it is very difficult to "catch up." The bermuda can slip into a semi-dormant state and very high nutrition levels would be necessary to bring it back. It would also be likely that other nutrition-related problems would develop, i.e. weed encroachment in weak areas, "thin" stands of turf add greater compaction from cart use on these "thin" areas.

Although different superintendents have differing opinions on amounts of nutrients to be applied, we can establish some generally acceptable norms. In South Florida seven to eight pounds of nitrogen per 1000 square feet for rough fairways and green slopes will provide in most cases adequate nitrogen requirements, even though several superintendents use substantially less. Phosphorus, although most South Florida soil samples show sufficient levels, can be applied one half to one pound per 1000 square feet per year to ensure availability should there be deficiencies in some areas. Potash levels, and there is room for a great deal of discussion in this area, can vary from four to seven pounds per 1000 square feet per year. There seems to be some very positive results on many courses that are using a one to one ration of nitrogen to potash. I believe we will see greater use of potash in the future. Minor elements are used in much less proportion with magnesium additions the most necessary.

Differing analyses are certainly necessary for different times of the year. Weather conditions dictate which levels of elements are necessary and it is up to the superintendent to analyze and decide which analysis is best suited to the needs of his course.

Most superintendents in *South Florida* will apply 75% of their nutrient requirements from September 1 thru April 1st. Between three quarters to one pound of nitrogen with proportionate amounts of potash and minor elements per month should produce healthy and hardy turf that can withstand cold weather extremes during these months.

As is the case with nearly every phase of golf course maintenance, the methods, rates and sources of nutrients vary greatly with the preference of the golf course superintendent or consultant who sets the fertilization patterns for the year.

Pull-behind fertilizer spreaders such as the John Deere and the Lely are widely used as a method of doing your own granular fertilization. There are also commercial operated truck mounted spreaders who can fertilize your course for a reasonable cost per ton. Additionally, there is the fertigation method by which liquid fertilizer is injected directly into your irrigation system. It is controlled by the superintendent through variable percentages on a fertilizer injection pump. Fertigation is becoming more and more widely used every year.

A look at several different superintendents and their methods show substantially different analysis of fertilizers being used, but judging from nutrition levels and course appearance, the end results are admirable.

Neil Kalin at Pembroke Lakes, a Western Broward County Golf Course, kicks off his fall fertilization program in mid-September with an application of an 0-8-16 mix at approximately 400 lbs/A. He follows this in about ten days with a sulfate of ammonia (20-0-0) application at 250-300 lbs/A. Another application of sulfate of ammonia usually follows by mid-October at a 200-225 lbs/A rate. A sulfate of potash (0-0-50) mix is also applied prior to October 30th at 400 lbs/A. The next application of fertilizer is put on around February first and is again sulfate of ammonia. Neil feels potash levels in his soil are the key factor to winter hardiness and turf recovery.

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

Doral Country Club's superintendent, Dick Lemmel, will fertilize his courses in late September or early October with a 16-4-8 analysis (5 of the 16 nitrogen units being urea formaldehyde) at a rate of 1½-2 lbs. N/1000 square feet (400-550 lbs/A). He continues with this mix at approximate eight week intervals going again in December, February and April. Supplemental applications of a special blend of liquid fertilizer is sprayed on an as needed basis through the winter. The blend is 20-20-20 analysis with Techmangum. Dick uses a spray vehicle with a flood jet nozzle attachment. Green and tee areas are also supplemented with liquid fertilizer of a 12-0-6 analysis and sprayed on in a similar manner.

Golf courses on liquid fertilizer generally apply fertilizer each time they irrigate. Although many blends are available, the most popular analyses are a 12-0-6, 11-0-5, 20-0-0, 8-0-0 and a 30-0-0. The goal per month is approximately one pound of nitrogen per 1000 square feet and approximately ½ to ¾ lbs. of potash, along with minor elements during the Fall months. December through April levels drop to around ¾ lb N/1000 month and proportionate reductions in other nutrients. Constant applications of fertilizer are the key to providing consistent availability of nutrients using the fertigation method.

No matter how you apply fertilizer or how often or what analysis is used, soil testing is an absolute must. Without this information, we are just taking a shot in the dark at the plant nutrient requirements. Periodic tissue analysis of turfgrass leaf blades will also show you which nutrients the grass plant is using. The laboratories can suggest

nutrient requirements and then we can use our talents and preferences to determine how and when we satisfy those demands. ■



Members are (left to right) Les Brown, La Gorce Country Club, secretary-treasurer; Dave Lottes, Rolling Hills Country Club, director; Brad Kocher, Inverrary Country Club, president; Ernie Alexander, Miami Beach, vice-president; Kenneth Nicholson, Woodlands Country Club, past president; Mike Newell, Coral Ridge Country Club, director; and Al Weitzel, Metro-Dade, external vice-president. ■

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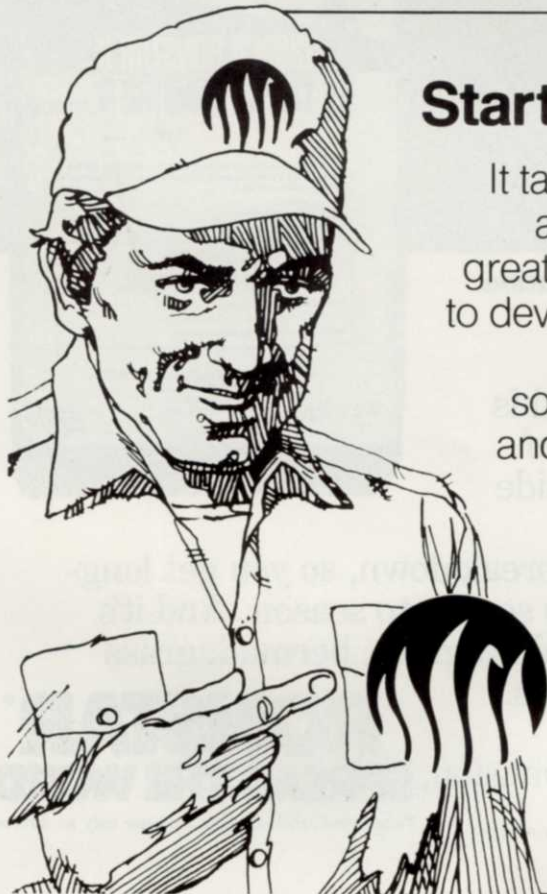
Fertilization during the fall and winter months probably has as great of an effect on the success of our golf course during the season as any other single maintenance program. At this time of the year there may not be a chance to "catch up" once behind on a fertilization program. Due to the distinct 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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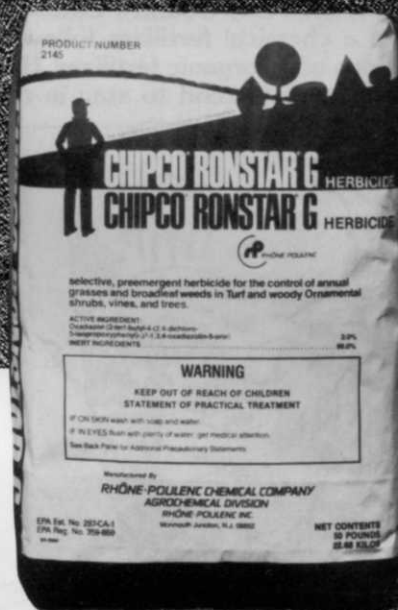
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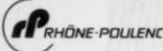


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