

Cotton Boll Humus Answers My Problems

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Many times a year I am asked what I use for humus, to improve the physical composition of my turf. I use a humus known as Iro and in this article will tell why.

The problem of properly using humus is one that confronts most everyone in the turf and gardening fields. There are numerous theories and techniques involved. We all have a pet product, but progressive and conscientious superintendents are always on the alert for a product that will do a dependable job with less time and effort. I have used and experimented with several different products, including Iro for a number of years. Iro is finely granulated cotton bolls, manufactured by the Ira A. Smith Co., East Point, Ga. It was first marketed about 1940, and has proved to be a satisfactory answer to many of the humus problems.

I started using Iro in 1943. In the last 12 years of using and observing Iro, I find that it has aided me to have a better physical composition in my greens, which means less work for me and my men, and yet have a better golf course more economically. Some of the advantages of Iro I find are these:

1. Iro is almost 100% dry, which minimizes weed seeds, fungi, insects, etc.
2. Water holding capacity is 310%.
3. Nearly neutral on pH (6.6), which is outstanding in a humus.
4. Finely granulated.
5. Being dry it is easily distributed onto a green with a fertilizer distributor, quickly and economically. (Play not inconvenienced).
6. Easily incorporated into a green after distribution by sprinkling with water. Not necessary to aerify, aerate or spike in.
7. Due to its fineness of granulation it mixes and retains its position within top dress mixes if so used.
8. Has a definite nitrogen reaction to a topdressed area, although not recommended so specifically.
9. Being finely granulated it incorporates itself into soils faster.
10. Greens dressed regularly with Iro do not require as much water. Evaporation of surface water is minimized — with less water being necessary to maintain growth. Golfer traffic compaction minimized. Grass roots are deeper.
11. Economical to use; price is low.
12. As a holder of fungicides and fertilizer if you use a sprayer.

It is not advisable for me to specify any definite rates of application as the product has varied potentialities and any specific

recommendation by me may not be applicable to what someone else is trying to accomplish.

However, I do recommend light applications and as often as needed in preference to a heavy application for unaerated putting surfaces, as the ease of handling and distribution makes it practical and golfer inconveniences are minimized.

For greens application I use the conventional type fertilizer spreader, and 100 lbs. is sufficient for approximately 6000 sq. ft. of putting surface.

I usually make a 90 degree distribution using a maximum of 200 lbs. per green per application as needed. This will vary with what you deem your green requires.

I prefer the humus treatments on my Bermuda turf. Unseasonal weather during our rye grass greens season makes any humus or organic application a gamble. These are the recommendations I am making for Bermuda and rye combination of greens.

There is no reason why bent and other fine turfs needing a humus can not be adjusted to the above mentioned advantages of Iro.

A humus problem is not for a novice and my suggestion to a person not knowing how, why or when to handle humus problems is to consult someone familiar with same, or do experiments to familiarize yourself with the product. One definite problem you will not have with Iro will be a pH variance. This in itself should make it an ideal humus for those who deal with turf, plants, trees and shrubs.

Illinois PGA Outlines Assistant Training

Feature of the Illinois PGA Spring meeting program was accent on a definite program for training assistants. Joe Paletti, John Revolta, John Gibson, Stan Kertes and Tim O'Brien got the plan under way with a fine clinic on instruction that passed along the experience of older successful professionals and brought forth lively, informative discussion.

Attendance at the meeting was 150.

Al Thorpe of the Internal Revenue dept. spoke to the Illinois section on how pros can properly make out tax returns and take advantage of regulations made to give them a fair break.

Bob Rickey, MacGregor Golf sales. mgr. talked on fitting golf clubs and Al Robins of Footjoy told how to fit shoes.

Dan Sheehan of the National Golf Foundation showed the new picture "Par for the Pro Department", prepared by the PGA Educational committee and the National Golf Foundation.