

used generously to furnish 2 to 3 pounds actual nitrogen per month. The highest rate should be approached during warm weather when Bermuda makes its best growth.

The new fine textured Bermuda grasses should be handled much like the bent grasses. Topdressing should be at light rates to avoid smothering. Nitrogen should be used at moderate rates but continuously. Phosphate and potash should be applied at the time the grass is vegetative and not when it throws seed heads.

The Bermuda grass on tees should be fertilized generously with nitrogen throughout the growing season. The amount should be in the range of 2 to 3 lbs. actual nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. per month. One application of phosphate and potash usually suffices. Early spring — just before or when growth starts — is a good time to apply them. Where a mixed fertilizer is used, the nitrogen content should be high with from one-third to one-half as much phosphoric acid and potash.

The best fairway turf on golf courses in the warm season belt is Bermuda grass. Fertilization and water management are the two most important items in their maintenance, and in that order. Many reverse it and try to grow grass with water only. To their dismay, the ground cover soon becomes crabgrass, clover, fennel, chickweed, and every other type of creeping weed. Then fairway renovation becomes necessary.

The way to produce good fairway turf is to use ample fertilizer and reasonable amounts of water. Workers in Missouri found it necessary to use five times more water to produce a bushel of corn than was needed on an well fertilized plot.

Testing of representative soil samples is the first step in formulating the fairway fertilizer program, providing sampling is done correctly and reliable methods are used. Such tests will disclose need for lime and provide an inventory of the soil stock of available phosphorus, potash, and other mineral elements. In semi-arid regions it is well to learn something about saline conditions.

An application of lime should be made on Bermuda grass fairways if the soil is more than slightly acid. A dolomite should be used if the soil supply of magnesium is low. Then deficiencies in phosphorus and/or potash should be corrected by the

Top Brass at Party



At the Nadco-Scoggins cocktail party and fashion show which began the round of festivities of PGA Senior week top officials of PGA and of Scoggins Golf Supply Co. and Nadco Sporting Goods Co. viewed in pleased amazement as record was set in consumption of wet and dry hors d'oeuvre.

L to R are Vic East, Nadco club designer; Carlton Waller, Scoggins pres.; Marty Cromb, 1955 PGA Seniors' pres.; Leo French, Nadco sales executive; Jack Russell, Scoggins vp; Harry Moffitt, PGA pres., and Herbert Johnson, Nadco pres.

application of phosphate and/or potash. After doing these things, nitrogen fertilizer becomes the key to a dense turf. Very few clubs use enough.

As much as 100 to 150 lbs. actual nitrogen per acre are used on many watered bent grass fairways in the North. Some Bermuda grass fairways need 50 to 100 per cent more than that, especially where the growing season is nine months or more.

Split Fertilizer Applications

At one time it was customary to apply all or most of the nitrogen at the start of the growing season. The trend has been toward split applications throughout the growing season. Clubs in South Florida have applied nitrogen fertilizer always in November and December. This has been done to hold color in cool weather and to insure a renewal of growth after a cool snap.

Bermuda grass fairways badly infested with clover, crabgrass, etc., are not hopeless. Good turf can be developed without interrupting play seriously. The best way is to fertilize generously and then spray with sodium arsenite three to four times. The sodium arsenite will hold the weeds in check or kill them while the fertilizer encourages the Bermuda grass to spread.