

# Fred Grau's Turf Questions & Answers

## Soil Nutrients

**Q:** Our bluegrass fairways are badly infested with clover. We have never used any fertilizer, except some barnyard manure, due to limited operating funds. Next spring we hope to have enough money in our budget to provide commercial fertilizer. Would you recommend that we use activated sewage sludge, or something with a much higher nitrogen content, and at what rate should it be used?

All our fairways are watered. (Colorado)

**A:** Undoubtedly the barnyard manure which you used carried white clover seeds. The continuing clover indicates lack of nitrogen, which you have recognized. Before you decide on any commercial fertilizer you should have soil tests run for pH, Ca, P and K. Your agricultural experiment station at Fort Collins can give you advice on how to draw the soil sample and how to submit it.

A copy of the results will help us to advise your best procedure. Certainly there would be little sense in using a material that carries a significant content of a nutrient that already is in good supply in your soil. By the same token, the fertilizer which you select should provide those nutrients that are lacking in your soil.

## Green Replacement

**Q:** We have a green that lies next to a good sized elm that hasn't yet been killed by Dutch elm disease. Roots have penetrated most of the green area of about 3,500 square feet. We have trenched several times and chopped off most of the roots but there are still some in the green which has not held up too well this summer.

I would like to re-seed the green just after Labor Day and either discard the old sod and re-work the seedbed, and plant stolons or seed with Penncross bent. To my knowledge, I have never seen any of it. I think the bent we have now is Colonial that was given to us in 1931. I have never liked it because it doesn't seem to stand up as well as some other bents.

I have a good spiker and an aerifier and am wondering whether you would suggest spiking several times and seeding with Penncross, or tearing up the old sod, re-working the seedbed and then seeding with Penncross. I use quite a lot of natural organic and boost with Urea-form for additional nitrogen.

Our play averages about 250 people per day, which doesn't help matters too much. The soil texture is a little on the heavy side, although I have aerified several times and filled in with a sandy compost. We did not have too much winterkill here last season. (Illinois)



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A. With the kind of play you have, it seems that your green should be kept in play every day that it's possible to maintain it in playing condition. For this reason I would suggest this program: Grow a piece of nursery sod from Penn-cross seed. Then, when the sod is ready to move, strip the green, re-work the soil, add plenty of coarse sand and whatever else might be needed to put the soil in perfect condition

### Turf Dates

Sept. 20-22—Equipment & Materials Educational Exposition, Brookside Park, Pasadena, Calif.

Nov. 16-18—Turfgrass Workshop, U. of California Conference Center, Lake Arrowhead.

for good drainage. Also remove whatever tree roots there are. Then prepare the surface and lay your new Penn-cross sod. In this way you will have the green out of play the minimum number of days.

If you have difficulty getting Penn-cross seed, you may wish to use a good stolon bent for developing your nursery sod for resodding the green. Washington bent is a good one. Another one, popular in your area, is Old Orchard.

Whichever one you choose I urge you to establish the nursery without delay so that you can do your sodding this fall when play slows down. Make sure that the texture of the soil under the nursery sod is exactly the same as the texture of the soil that you are preparing in the old green after you strip the sod.

### CMAA Finances

According to the mid-year report of the CMAA, the association had income of slightly more than \$40,000 in the first six months of 1962. Member service and national office operation expenses amounted to nearly \$51,000. The net loss of \$10,739 is to be made up through national conference reimbursement. The CMAA's net worth as of June 30 was \$57,936.

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