

The calibration principle of fertilizer spreaders is equally demanding. The literature that accompanies the conventional type spreader with a calibration pan is more than adequate and will not be elaborated upon here.

Most manufacturers publish a chart, usually attached to the machine, which indicates an approximate setting for pounds per acre. But, because of the extreme variation in material character, moisture content and "flowability", it is impossible for the manufacturer to account for all brands of materials that might be used. A record of each calibration for every material used should be kept.

Cyclone-Type Spreaders

To calibrate a cyclone-type spreader, observe the chart for the approximate setting and speed for a similar material. To be on the safe side, you might set the machine a little lighter than recommended. Then choose an open area such as a practice fairway or rough and proceed as follows:

1. Start with the hopper level full of the desired material (fertilizer in most cases).

2. Drive exactly $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile (40 rods or 660 ft.) at a desired constant speed.

3. Refill the hopper, carefully measuring the amount of material required.

4. Calculate the application rate as follows:

$$\frac{\text{No. of lbs. used} \times 66}{\text{Width of Coverage (ft.)}} = \text{lbs. per acre}$$

Example: If 470 lbs. of 10-6-4 fertilizer were used in $\frac{1}{4}$ mile and the width covered by the spreader is 40 feet, multiply 470×66 and divide by 40. The result is 775.5 pounds per acre.

The amount of fertilizer to be applied per acre should first be decided. Then after several test runs, the adjustment of the spreader should be determined. Fertilizer does not lend itself to dilution or concentration such as in liquid spray calibration. Be sure to record the settings or adjustments of all trial runs and keep all pertinent data such as analysis of fertilizer, trade name, manufacturer and, above all, ground speed at which the tests were run. Many times it is possible to interpolate the setting of a machine when as few as three test runs are completed. By using the maximum and minimum settings along with the "in between settings" a graph can be plotted showing the pattern of the machine (straight line or curved).

St. Andrews Isn't Golf's Cradle, These People Say

The people of Royal Blackheath in England say St. Andrews isn't the cradle of golf. When King James I and his courtiers tired of stag hunting early in the 17th century, they were persuaded to open a seven-hole course on the sand ground of Blackheath Common, about eight miles from London.

The royal golfers are said to have decided their matches over three circuits — 21 holes. Hockey shape sticks and leather balls were used. King James, whose mother, Mary Queen of Scots, was a golfer (history says she stepped out and took some practice swings shortly after receiving a report that her husband, Lord Dornley, had been murdered) was pretty much of a hacker. It is suspected that his courtiers didn't count all his strokes in order to curry favor with him.

Residents of Royal Blackheath claim King James' golf club was formed in 1608, to be exact. This was 150 years before the Royal and Ancient was organized at St. Andrews. The original course at Blackheath Common disappeared in 1923, giving way to a playing field and swimming pool. The original course moved to a new site, a 17th century manor house, a few miles away. Now, Royal Blackheath has a modern 18-hole course.

Accessory Equipment

Because of the large geographic area in which manufacturers sell and the universal circumstances under which the equipment is used, there usually are a great number of accessories available to adapt a particular machine to its intended use. For example, the nozzles on the boom of most sprayers may be of the wrong gallonage for your situation. A supt. should become familiar with the spacing, angle, gallonage delivered, pressure required, and distance from the ground required, for a specific nozzle. He should become familiar with all the attachments or adapters of his other equipment such as fixed combs, floating combs, Wiley rollers, castor wheels or solid rollers as are offered with his greensmower.

The fundamental of using equipment to its best advantages should not be overlooked. This is not a recommendation to

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