

Grau's Answers

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Q.—In a national magazine just recently a professor from a respected mid-western university was quoted as saying that, if one uses slow-release fertilizers, one must use *more* than if he used ordinary materials because of the "rapid leaching." We have understood that one of the advantages of slow-release organics was the high resistance to leaching. This is confusing; can you help us?

(Indiana)

A.—Resistance to leaching truly is one of the advantages of slow-release organic fertilizers. This has been proved by several research workers. The statement "rapid leaching" as applied to slow-release organics is incomprehensible. Perhaps the professor was misquoted. Anyway, rest assured that "rapid leaching" is a feature of solubles, *not* of slow-release materials.

Q.—We have had soil tests run every year for five or six years. Consistently the phosphorus and potash readings are high to very high. Recommendations just as consistently advise the use (liberal) of a complex mixed fertilizer. Isn't there some point where we can use (temporarily, at least) straight nitrogen without endangering the quality of our turf? There would be a considerable monetary saving.

(Texas)

A.—You may proceed with confidence to use nitrogen alone in quantities suited to the needs of your turf. Continue to test your soils. When P and K (one or both) drop to levels that indicate "shortage," it will be time to make applications of the needed element(s). When you buy straight N materials you can be sure that you will get what you pay for. No one can hide behind the "60 per cent organic" facade in order to sell you urea in place of the kind of organic N you really wanted.

Q.—What size tine do you recommend for opening greens? Is there a possibility of overdoing this and making the greens too hard?

(Michigan)

A.—It depends upon the effect intended. For simply breaking a surface seal to let water and air in, the smallest tine available is OK. Where you expect to introduce soil amendments (replacement), the largest size is recommended. Large tines may roughen the surface more than the small ones but this must be accepted in the interests of soil improvement. Topdressing and rolling soon will restore a smooth surface.

Yes, cultivation can be overdone but the principal effect will be on the members who do not like to have the greens continually roughened. It is highly unlikely that it will make the greens hard.

Q.—In appreciation of turf improvement as symbolized by the Joseph Valentine Living Memorial we want to send a contribution. Please tell us where we can send our check.

(Ohio)

A.—Mail your check directly to Joseph Valentine Memorial Fund, Post Office Box 324, State College, Pennsylvania 16801.

Q.—Where can one find out about the scope of the turfgrass industry in the United States? Are there any valid surveys available?

(Iowa)

A.—It has been said that the findings of any turfgrass survey would be out of date upon completion. This indicates the rapid growth of this phase of our constantly changing economy.

Published figures from California, New Jersey and Texas are several years old. Pennsylvania is completing the first truly comprehensive state-wide survey by way of the crop reporting service. Figures will be available soon through the Pennsylvania turfgrass council, sponsor of the turf grass industry survey. ●