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Grau's Answers

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It is incumbent on all of us to direct our efforts toward: 1) grasses that tolerate excesses of all kinds with impunity; 2) the judicious use of minimum quantities of water, consistent with good playing conditions, and 3) fertilizer programs that enhance our objectives.

The turfgrass industry desperately needs basic research to learn the *why* of things. We can not go much further in industry-supported "demonstration testing" of trade-name materials. Turfgrass in stress affects a very high percentage of U.S. taxpayers. Concerted effort is needed to direct tax dollars to the universal discipline of turf.

Q.—We have been told that our turf will take wear and tear better and suffer less in hot weather if potash levels are kept high. Why is this, if it is true? (West Virginia)

A.—It is true. Potash is very important in the translocation of sugars in the plant which are manufactured during daylight. At night they are transported to storage organs and are converted to carbohydrates. Low potash means sluggish movement which could result in partial starvation of the turf.

Potash also helps to stiffen cell walls which gives turfgrass leaves more resistance to traffic.

Disease resistance is another factor in favor of keeping potash levels adequate. A rule of thumb is to use about one-half to two-thirds as much potash as nitrogen. Twelve pounds of N would call for six to eight pounds of K during the season.

Potash is soluble and can be leached with high rainfall and heavy irrigation. Use it in light frequent applications.

Q.—At our local meetings we argue over whether to raise our mowers in the summer or to keep them set at the most desirable playing height and just skip a mowing now and then when the turf seems "tired." What is your opinion? (New Jersey)

A.—We favor the policy of maintain-