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soluble N to achieve early green, but then you may have much more grass than you want a little later. With a good bluegrass turf it is best to work along with nature and not force this "early green" at the expense of quality turf the rest of the season.

Q.—When you first came to California we showed you kikuyugrass and asked, "How can we get rid of this pest?" You asked a few questions about its ability to stand drought, its fertilizer and water requirements. Then you asked, "Why would you want to get rid of it?" Now, with good management, kikuyugrass is one of our best fairway turfs, needing no irri-

gation and no fertilization. My question is, "Do you still feel that we can live with this grass when it is managed?"

(California)

A.—Yes, especially now that we have heavy power equipment to keep the turf eminently playable. We do need to know how to control its spread into bunkers and greens.

Q.—We have been told that we are foolish to buy organic fertilizers (ureaform and natural organics) when the soluble nitrogen materials cost so much less per unit of plant food. We like the organics but we also are concerned with economics. Can you give us a guide?

(North Carolina)

A.—Inorganic (soluble) forms of nitrogen are more easily misused and, when improperly understood and applied, they are capable of causing considerable damage. I've seen so much evidence of ignorance concerning soluble forms of N that I've swung heavily toward the side of the safer fertilizers. A good UF, for example, can be misused rather badly and still will not markedly upset the equilibrium. True, the organics cost more per unit. The safety, the reduction in numbers of applications, the more uniform growth-all help to compensate for the differential. One bit of evidence of the value of the slow-release materials in spite of the cost is in the home-owner fertilizers. Nearly all of them now contain significant amounts of the safer materials that last longer.

Q.—I have been asked to use certain growth regulators along ditch banks and around trees on our golf course. Materials suggested are Maleic hydrazide, Gibberellic acid, Cycocel, B-Nine and Phosphon. Should these be applied in spring before growth is over 2 1/2 inches? Do you consider them economical?

(Canada) (Continued on page 42)



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