

Balanced Chain Methylene Urea is a top fertilizer performer

(the key is in the balance)



proper feeding

BCMU® helps plant tissues come as close as possible to utilizing and storing the optimum level of nitrogen, maintaining adequate growth and proper root and shoot development which produces turf that is much better able to resist environmental stresses.

no surge growth

The longer chains in BCMU® slow down the growth enough to avoid unwanted surges, reducing clippings and the need to mow more often than desired. This reduced maintenance requirement translates into labor and equipment savings for the turf manager.

color that lasts

BCMU® provides quick greenup with enough longevity to carry the rich, deep green color up to 18 weeks, much longer than lower-end methylene ureas and coated technologies. Visual quality will remain when other fertilizers begin to fade.

safe & reliable

The precise and steady release of BCMU® gives turf managers consistent results with any application rate or interval while building a solid nitrogen base. Its low salt index with almost non-existent burn potential make it the safe choice as well.

When you consider all the important features and benefits of a nitrogen source, no other competitor compares to BCMU®. Its unique balance of short, intermediate and long methylene urea chains creates a product that is the best of all worlds and an outstanding value.

Combine that with the efficiency of Meth-Ex® technology and you have a nitrogen source that stands alone. BCMU with Meth-Ex technology has a high nitrogen activity index, which means that more nutrients

are available when the plant requires them while "banking" some for later use.

BCMU™ is found only in UHS Signature Brand Fertilizers and have been tested and used with outstanding results for years. Find out why the best fertilization program should be an easy balancing act for the smart turf manager.



Signature
brand fertilizer™

For more information, contact your local UHS representative

www.uhsonline.com

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® Meth-Ex is a registered trademark of Lebanon Seaboard Corporation

Our fertilizer comes with a built-in insurance policy.



UHS Signature Brand Fertilizers with Prospect® Plus not only provide quality nutrients, they also work to:

- Help turf establish or withstand environmental stresses
- Develop a more fibrous, extensive root system
- Enhance early plant growth and vigor
- Build greater shoot mass
- Increase uptake of soil nutrients and moisture
- Increase photosynthesis

UHS Signature Brand Fertilizers with Prospect® Plus have been impregnated with a proprietary nutrient solution that has shown a remarkable ability to improve vigor, quality and stress tolerance in turf, trees and ornamentals. The patented additive in Prospect® Plus has been tested extensively on many crops, including turf, in laboratory, greenhouse and field studies in the U.S. and several other countries.

Those studies have consistently shown a positive effect on early plant growth and development and with mature plants under stress. Sod farms results show that turf can be harvested earlier due to increased root mass and quicker establishment from seed or sprigs. Mature turf has greater root mass with a noted "tighter" visual appearance and less susceptibility to stress.

The same benefits can be found in Prospect®, a liquid micronutrient for foliar application or for use in fertigation systems.

Effect of Fertilizer with Prospect Plus on Creeping Bentgrass Density

Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Research and Educational Center - 2000

Treatment	Rate	% Turf Density
Check		60.00
Fertilizer (46-0-0)	0.014 lb. N/1000 sq. ft.	72.00
Fertilizer (46-0-0) + Prospect Plus	0.014 lb. N/1000 sq. ft. + 48 oz./acre	77.00

Seeded on August 4, 2000 with G-2 creeping bentgrass at a rate of 2 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. Density measurements were based on % cover taken visually on 10/4 (8 weeks after treatment)

Study Results: "... a significant increase in creeping bentgrass establishment two months after seeding with the application of fertilizer and Prospect Plus compared to the untreated control." **A 22% improvement over check and more than a 12% increase over fertilizer alone!**

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A Quiet Walk

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Colo., used his course as a test site for the Flex 21. Last June, he ordered 10 of the machines to groom his Penn A-4 bentgrass greens.

"The cutting head has some weight to it, which keeps it close to the ground," Ross says. "[Toro technicians] also kept the distance between the front and rear roller fairly short, which helps reduce scalping."

Jacobsen offers several walking greens mowers. The lightweight PGM, available in 19- and 22-inch widths, has an electronically balanced, 11-blade reel that delivers a tight .205-inch clip frequency and a choice of three bedknives for cutting down to .078 of an inch. The PGM can be equipped with Jacobsen's patented Turf Groomer turf conditioner to decrease thatch and increase green speeds. Jacobsen also offers the Greens King 500 Series walk-behind mowers, which come in 18-, 22- and 26-inch cutting widths and can be equipped with the Turf Groomer.

So how does a superintendent choose between these and other models?

"You talk to one guy and he likes Toro," says Darin Bavard, an agronomist with the USGA Green Section's Turfgrass Advisory Service in the Mid-Atlantic field office in West Chester, Pa. "The next guy likes Jacobsen and the next guy likes John Deere. It's a matter of what they try out and feel comfortable with. I don't see where there is that much difference between all of them. If properly adjusted, maintained and operated, they all do a good job."

Tim Hiers, superintendent at Old Collier GC in Naples, Fla., agrees there's little difference in product quality, but instead stresses the importance of company service.

"You want to go with the vendor who gives the best service," Hiers says. "Dependability and the ability to respond are important. That means the distributor is integral in your decision-making. It's hard to explain to golfers that the reason the greens aren't right is because you're waiting for a part. That doesn't cut it."

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SUPERINTENDENTS SHOULD ALSO LISTEN TO WHAT THEIR PEERS ARE SAYING ABOUT BRANDS.

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A Quiet Walk

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Familiarity is also important, Hiers stresses. "If you have an outstanding mechanic and he's familiar with a particular brand, you might go with that brand to overcome the lack of service," he adds.

Superintendents should also listen to what their peers are saying about the

brands. Of course, they need to consider their individual needs. "You buy the mower that does the best job on your greens, that your people can handle the best, and that you can keep in the best operating condition," Hiers adds. ■

Blais is a free-lance writer from North Yarmouth, Maine.



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Double-cutting Greens Could Add Up to Double Trouble

By Peter Blais

The week of June 10 through June 16 will be quite a test for the greens on the Black Course at Bethpage State Park in Farmingdale, N.Y., site of this year's U.S. Open. Not only will superintendent Craig Currier and his crew be double-cutting the greens at 90-degree angles, they'll be cutting them at least twice a day during the tournament and keeping the speeds at a minimum of 12 on the Stimpmeter.

"We'll cut as often as we have to in order to get there," Currier says. "We could be cutting four times a day."

This might be extreme and, certainly, out of the ordinary, but it's America's championship, after all. However, in their quest for ever-faster green speeds to please members, owners and customers, superintendents are walking an ever-narrowing edge between fast greens and healthy turf.

"We are seeing more pressure for green speed in general," says Darin Bavard, an agronomist for the USGA Green Section's Turfgrass Advisory Service in West Chester, Pa. "It stems from a lot of things. Golfers watching the Masters and PGA Tour on television week after week apply the main pressure. Fast greens are a nice calling card for a club."

Double-cutting, which is usually done during tournaments and special events, is one way to add speed and smoothness to a green, Bavard says. The obvious problems are that it puts additional stress on the grass and requires more labor to complete.

The greatest stress is placed on the turf during the warmest summer months, particularly on cool-season grasses.

Continued on page 86

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While they may not be a cure all, I am firmly convinced that, along with a solid cultural program, the products can make greens healthier and jobs less stressful.

Floratine has made a believer out of me.

- Fred Theus, Superintendent
*Ocean Forest Golf Club
Sea Island, GA (Walker Cup, 2001)*



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A Quiet Walk

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"The turf isn't growing fast and it almost gets to the point that mechanical wear on the grass is enough to kill it," Bavard says. "On poa/bentgrass greens, anthracnose can be excited by double-cutting. Then you add [golfer] traffic, and it has a compounding effect."

Double-cutting after a rain storm, when

the greens are soft, can increase mechanical damage and may cause scalping, Bavard notes.

"Superintendents have lost their jobs because they've pushed green speeds," he says. "Double-cutting greens can be part of that."

More and more superintendents are using rollers to increase green speed.

Solid rollers put less stress on the grass than grooved rollers, Bavard says.

"Instead of simply double-cutting, you can single cut and roll," Bavard says. "You get the same effect without clipping the grass twice. You have to pick your spots and do it when the grass will tolerate it. That's weather dependent. If you get 100-degree temperatures, then you're playing with fire."

Bavard says you can get away with more in the spring and fall, but "you're teetering on the brink in the summer, especially if you don't have modern sand-based greens and one of the older turf varieties."

"If you've got one of the new A-4, G-2 or L-93 bentgrasses, double-cutting becomes less of a concern," Bavard says. "They are more tolerant of lower cutting heights. But if you have old Penncross and poa greens on soil-based, push-up greens, that's more difficult"

If golfers persist in their demands for double-cut greens when conditions aren't appropriate, superintendents need to educate them about the possible consequences.

"That educational process sometimes gets them to back off from double-cutting, at least in July and August," Bavard says. "It's a narrow line to walk. Superintendents don't just say, 'I don't want the greens to be fast.' If they could get away with giving golfers green speeds of 11 every day, with no consequences, they would be more than happy to do it. But there are consequences."

If golfers want faster greens at an older course with older turf types, then converting the greens to one of the newer grasses should be mentioned as an option. "Ask who you are being compared to if golfers want greens like they've seen someplace else," Bavard says. "They may say course A is faster than course B. But course A may have been built just two years ago, have a higher budget and be planted with new grasses on new greens. Those things make a difference." ■

Blais is a free-lance writer from North Yarmouth, Maine.

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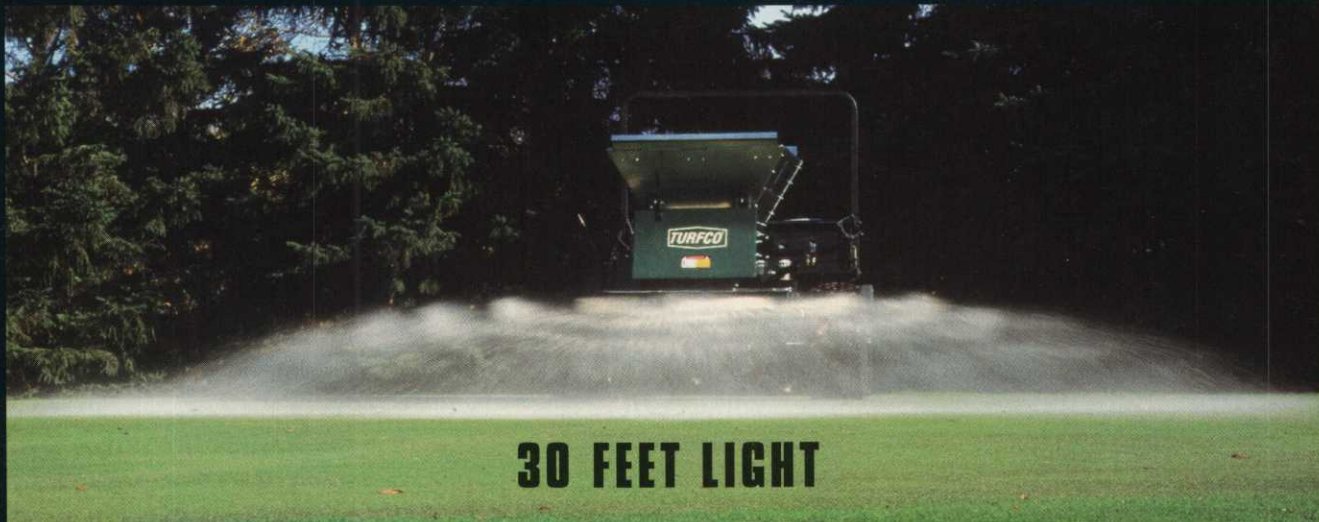
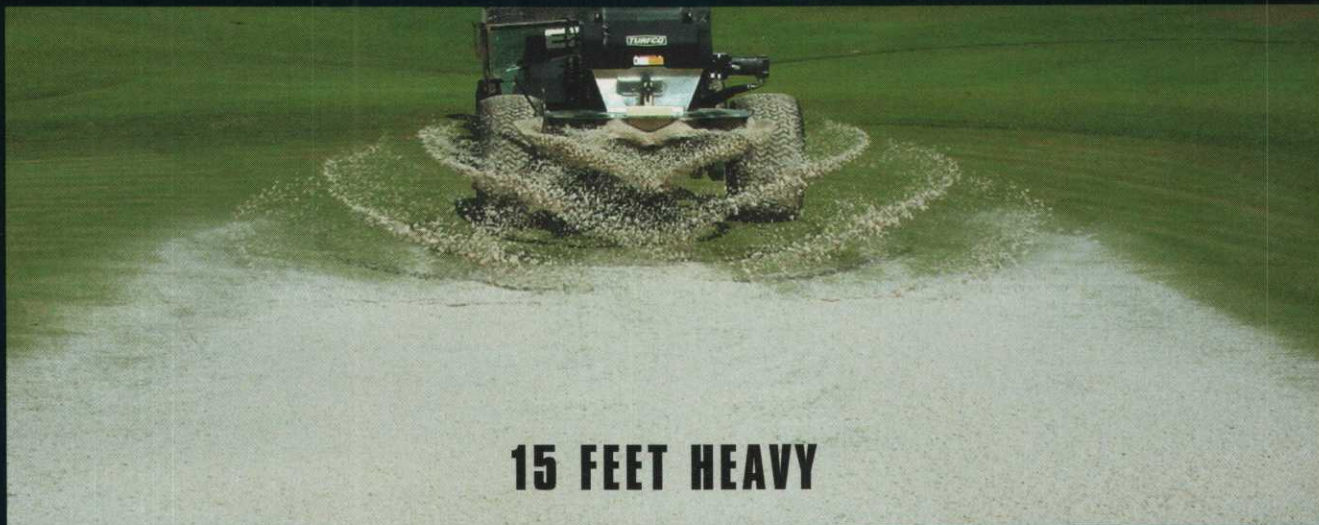
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