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Late Is Good, in this Case

Fall fertilization is vital to maintaining healthy turf year-round. Superintendents offer tips on how to do it correctly

Ahh, the smell of fall is in the air. October brings cooler temperatures, colorful leaves, the World Series and ... late-fall fertilization.

Yes, all you tenders of turf, it's time to think about this autumn rite of passage. Recently, we asked superintendents: What's the most important thing — whether agronomic or philosophical — to remember when it comes to late-fall fertilization?

Here's what they had to say:

Bryan Tipton, certified superintendent of Sutton Bay in Agar, S.D.:

"I like to put on my late-fall application around Oct. 8 in South Dakota. It's the date of the average first frost in our state. It's also the most important application of the year. The only problem that may occur is a warm-up during this time and a flush of growth that could hurt the plant."

Steve Hammon, superintendent of Traverse City (Mich.) Golf & Country Club:

"The most important item for late-fall and dormant fertilizing in the North is to make sure you're using a product that works well with cool spring and early-summer soil temperatures. You can never predict when your course will be damaged from snow mold, ice damage or crown hydration, so you want a product that encourages quick spring recovery."

John Carlone, certified superintendent of Meadow Brook Club in Jericho, N.Y.:

"The most important thing for superintendents to remember about late-fall fertilization is not to confuse it with dormant fertilization. Late-fall fertilization should take place when shoot growth has ceased but root growth is still taking place — which would be during mid-

to late-October in the New York metro area. Dormant fertilization would take place when both shoot and root growth have shut down for the winter, usually early to mid-December in New York. A dormant fertilization too early or a late-fall fertilization too late could do more harm than good. Then turf would be too succulent entering dormancy."

Don Sutton, superintendent of Kinsale Golf and Fitness Center in Powell, Ohio:

"I like to have all of my fall aerification completed before my late-fall fertilization. I'm targeting root growth with the late-fall application. Having my aerification completed gives channels for air, water and fertilizer to move in the soil as well as good root development in the aerification holes."

Bill Womac, certified superintendent of Big Canoe Golf Club in Norcross, Ga.:

"Fall fertilization on bermudagrass is important to get the turf in the best and healthiest condition for the winter season. We use a fertilizer with low nitrogen, low phosphate and high potassium. The high potassium helps the turf withstand the colder conditions. We use a more complete fertilizer such as 14-4-7 or 16-4-8 for the cool-season grasses. A steady-release nitrogen source is an excellent choice of nitrogen for the fall season. Fertilizing cool-season grass in the fall will improve the root growth vs. late-spring applications."

Jim Husting, certified superintendent of Woodbridge (Calif.) Golf & Country Club:

"I would have to say — wherever you are — to do fall fertilization to promote strength for recovery and transition into the spring."

Compiled by Editor Larry Aylward.

MIKE KLEMM

A Rolling Stone Gathers No Moss, Neither Should Your Greens.

Cure and prevent putting green moss infestations with Junction* Fungicide/Bactericide.

Changes in turf maintenance practices have made moss encroachment one of the major problems that golf course superintendents face today.

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Research has shown that Junction Fungicide/Bactericide, used in a control program, can both cure and prevent moss infestations. And, while dealing with moss, Junction also provides cost-effective control of a wide spectrum of fungal and bacterial diseases.

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Junction*
Fungicide/Bactericide



The Company Line

PRODUCTS & SERVICES

► Reel mower

Locke Turf introduces the GT "Micro Cut" Reel Mower, which features a stand-alone power train. The engine has been moved forward, the tail wheel removed and a mid-mount roller located just ahead of the traction rollers provides balance even without a cutting unit attached. By incorporating the full-floating counterbalanced reel, the GT series will follow undulations and contours well, the company says. The heavy-duty grooved aluminum front roller and solid rear roller are designed with two sections to eliminate scuffing in curves. Each end of both rollers is adjustable for precision in adjusting and maintaining heights of cut. Locke's premium tournament knife is capable of attaining a cut as low as .045 inches. For more information, contact 800-537-3713 or www.locketurf.com



Fire ant bait

DuPont Professional Products introduces DuPont Advion Fire Ant Bait to combat the red imported fire ant problem facing much of

the southern United States. Advion provides control of fire ants within 24 to 72 hours after application. Advion, which received EPA

approval in August, contains the active ingredient Indoxacarb that belongs to a new class of insecticide chemistry. Advion's fast action results from the metabolic activation of Indoxacarb by developing larvae within the colony. The activated metabolite is then distributed to other members of the colony, including the queen. For more information, contact 888-638-7668 or www.proproducts.dupont.com.

'Zero-Down' Promotion

Jacobsen offers a new "No Pay 'til May" program to help superintendents finance the purchase of new golf and turf care equipment. The program, which runs through Dec. 31, allows superintendents to put no money down and make no payments on new Jacobsen turf equipment until May 2005. For more information, contact www.jacobsen.com.

Truck-Mounted Topdresser

TurfcO offers a new version of its WideSpin 1530 Truck Mount Topdresser that will make this efficient machine available to more superintendents. The new machine can now be attached to John Deere Pro Gator and Toro Workman utility vehicles.

The new version of the WideSpin 1530 features a 19-cubic-foot hopper capacity with a longer, wider opening for easier loading of materials. Attaching the unit to the utility vehicle is simple, requiring the use of just a few mounting

brackets and connections. The WideSpin 1530 is ideal for superintendents who implement a light, frequent topdressing program. The machine can topdress as light as a fertilizer spreader up to 30 feet wide, allowing superintendents to topdress 18 holes in as fast as 90 minutes, according to the company. For more information, contact 763-785-1000 or www.turfcO.com.

▼ Topdresser

Specifically designed for the **John Deere** ProGator 2020 and 2030 utility vehicles, the TD100 Topdresser is ideal for use on the golf course. It's made with a galvanized steel hopper that resists corrosion and is supported by a steel frame for strength.

A fixed-speed nylon/polyester cord endless conveyor belt moves material under the metering gate and through a rotating brush for even distribution. The conveyor belt and rotating brush are powered by a hydraulic motor which operates off the ProGator hydraulic system. For more information, contact www.johndeere.com.



Battling fairy ring

For the past several years, **Cleary Chemical** has been working with experts to evaluate Endorse Turf Fungicide for the control and management of fairy ring. Endorse has recently achieved acclaim for use on basal and foliar anthracnose, along with brown patch, snow mold and other common turf diseases.

Although Endorse is not currently registered for fairy ring, Cleary believes that Endorse would have a beneficial effect on this disease because of its strong effects on other basidiomycetes.

For more information, contact Richard Fletcher at 800-524-1662.

Golfdom



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Leaders

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

The GCSAA recently chose its 2004 GCSAA Legacy Award Winners, sponsored by Syngenta Professional Products. Winners received a \$1,500 scholarship each to assist in their education in any desired course of study. At the high-school level, the following students were chosen: **Elizabeth Buchen**, daughter of Terry Buchen, certified superintendent; **Erica Hensley**, daughter of Bryan Hensley, superintendent at Rivers Pine Golf in Alpharetta, Ga.; **John Hoag**, son of Paul Hoag, superintendent at Golf Systems Inc. in Comstock Park, Mich.; **Kelly McKenzie**, daughter of Keith McKenzie, certified superintendent at Sapona Country Club in Lexington, N.C.; **Katelyn Ritter**, daughter of Thomas J. Ritter, certified superintendent at Hampshire Greens Golf Course in Silver Spring, Md.; **Elizabeth Weber**, daughter of Dennis Weber, certified superintendent

of Wynlakes Country Club in Montgomery, Ala.; **Johanna Whitmer**, daughter of Tony L. Whitmer, certified superintendent of Cross Winds Golf Course in Bowling Green, Ky.; and **Stephen Wilk**, son of Timothy Wilk, superintendent of Scotch Valley Country Club in Hollidaysburg, Pa.

The following college students received awards: **Justin Bennett**, son of Gary D. Bennett, certified superintendent of Stonebridge Golf Club in Rome, Ga.; **Brian Creencia**, son of Jessie Creencia, certified superintendent; **Alina Evans**, daughter of Hawley Evans, certified superintendent of North Star Golf Club in Fairbanks, Alaska; **Kelly Evans**, daughter of M. Tedd Evans, certified superintendent of Brookings Country Club, in Brookings, S.D.; **Anna Gamble**, daughter of Dane Gamble, superintendent at Bridger Creek Golf Club in Bozeman, Mont.; **Robin List**, daughter of Thomas K. List, cer-

NOTABLE ACHIEVERS

The following superintendents recently achieved certification: **Philip Bailey**, Cypress Creek Golf Club, Smithfield, Va.; **Mark Dalton**, Meadow Springs Golf & Country Club, Richland, Wash.; **James DeReuil**, Kelly Plantation Golf Club, Destin, Fla.; **Sean Duffy**, Golden Bear Club at Keene's, Windermere, Fla.; **Wilton M. Harbin Jr.**, Cliffs at Keowee Vineyards, Landrum, S.C.; **Robert Ehler**, Crab Meadow Golf Course, Northport, N.Y.; **Robert Main**, Windyke Country Club, Memphis, Tenn.; **Melanie Mark**, Spessard Holland Golf Course, Melbourne Beach, Fla.; and **Clark Waters**, Wichita Falls Country Club, Wichita Falls, Texas.

tified superintendent of Ocean City Golf Club in Berlin, Md.; **Katherine Lott**, daughter of Howard Lott, certified superintendent of Bridgeport Country Club in Bridgeport, W.Va.; **Tracy Montross**, daughter of Walter Montross, certified superintendent of Westwood Country Club in Vienna, Va.; **Dea Mulder**, daughter of Daniel Mulder, superintendent of Landsmeer Golf Club in Orange City, Iowa; **Benjamin Nielsen**, son of Alan L. Nielsen, certified superintendent of Royal Oaks Country Club in Vancouver, Wash.; **Jared**

Oldham, son of Randy L. Oldham, superintendent of Logan (Utah) Golf and Country Club; and **Tracy Shaw**, daughter of James Shaw, superintendent of Chenequa Country Club in Hartland, Wis.

Owen G. Larkin, president of the Vineyard Golf Club in Edgartown, Mass., joined the GCSAA's Environmental Institute for Golf advisory council.

John Deere Golf & Turf One Source named **Matt Armbrister**, an associate brand manager.

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Athletic Turf delivers the kinds of hands-on, practical information on athletic turf maintenance and technology that managers are hungry for. The editorial scope of *Athletic Turf* includes:

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Darien Daily
Head Groundskeeper
Paul Brown Stadium
Cincinnati, OH

Many thanks for sending me Athletic Turf News. I really enjoyed reading it and cant wait for the next issue. I found it really informative and have downloaded many of the features.

Alan Ferguson
Head Groundsman
Ipswich Town Football Club
United Kingdom

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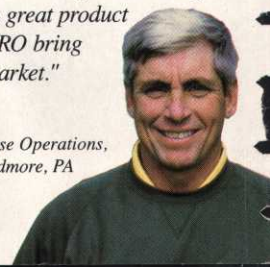
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Matt Shaffer
Director of Golf Course Operations,
Merion Golf Club, Ardmore, PA



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