



# Helping the superintendent through turf research...

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- Fertilizer/Pesticide Combinations

- Fungicides—Herbicides—Insecticides
- Soil Testing—Weed & Disease Identification

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## Jerry O'Donnell

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compaction. Heavy traffic areas that have normally thinned out and needed additional aerations are still healthy and dense. There is absolutely no thatch layer in our greens and we have experienced no disease problems. In addition, the hard greens are starting to hold shots very well and all of the greens putt very true. Our golfers have certainly noticed the difference. Even the few die-hard gripers who play at our course have had nothing but compliments about our greens this year. (Don't worry, though, they have found plenty of other things to bitch about.)

While there may be some problems associated with this method of greens management at some point in the future, I am sure that they cannot be any more serious than the ones we faced using the old methods. I really do not, however, expect any major difficulties. As a matter of fact, I believe that topdressing with sand will provide even more benefits in the future than it already has. One of the major benefits I expect to derive from it is a reduction in *Poa annua*. This, I believe, will occur because no more *Poa annua* will be planted during aeration and topdressing procedures and any seed that is present will be buried deeper and deeper under layers of weedseed-free sand.

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### NOTES ON FUNGICIDE EFFECTIVENESS by Jim Latham

What is the pH of the water you use for spraying?

It might help to know since the fungicides you use may fail if mixed with alkaline water.

Fungicide failure in the metropolitan New York area this month was blamed on water with a pH of 8.6. Paul Sartoretto of W.A.Cleary Corp. was contacted about this and he recommended acidification with ferrous sulfate.

There 3 lbs. per 100 gallons of water lowered the pH to below 5. Tony Grasso of Metro Milorganite learned from an Upjohn representative that Actidione TGF did best at pH levels from 5.8 to 6.2.

To check pH levels use the swimming pool test equipment or litmus paper. Better yet, have a water sample run through a local laboratory. This may sequine more time than you have available, though.

Set up to spray and add ferrous sulfate to the tank in samll increments (1/2 lb.), testing after each until you reach a pH of at least 6. From what we hear, more acid solutions do no damage.

Excessive concentrations of iron should be avoided, though. Black grass isn't exactly pretty.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### GOLF COMMITTEE REPORT:

Our July meeting was held at beautiful Clintonville -

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