

Now is the Time To Be Conservative With Fertilization

By R.A. (Bob) BRAME,
Director, North Central Region

Dry conditions have returned to much of the lower portion of the North Central Region. Irrigation systems are being put to use at a higher intensity than normal for this time of year. The intensity has been particularly pressing for courses that did renovation work late last fall. We never know what Mother Nature is going to throw at us and the dry weather pattern over the last several weeks has certainly underlined this fact.

Keep in mind, now is the time to be conservative with fertilization. A few weeks back soil temperatures were holding back growth, and now the dry conditions are having the same impact where irrigation is not possible. Increasing fertilization will not counter dry conditions and will only set the stage for lush top growth and root decline. Spoon-feeding is certainly appropriate this time of year and through the summer, but be very conservative with granular feeding.

Recent travel has revealed aeration work in progress or being planned for implementation over the next couple of weeks. This always brings a few phone calls from those golfers who think the superintendent is lying awake at night pondering ways to disrupt their game. I've had similar delusions about highway crews and orange barrels. In reality, progress does cause some short-term inconvenience. Yet, the inconvenience is minimal compared to the benefits that are achieved.

Remember that the target with topdressing is to match growth rate. That is, to integrate sand into the putting surfaces in sync with growth. This normally equates to moderate rate applications every couple of weeks over the fall and spring, yielding to lighter less frequent applications during the summer. Consistency is the key, and here again, some minor inconvenience to play may result. As aeration improves porosity in the root zone, topdressing complements this enhancement, while also offering surface smoothing and firming. Resolve now to maintain a consistent posture with topdressing this season and on into the years ahead.

News from Dr. Paul Vincelli at the University of Kentucky reveals gray leaf spot disease resistance to Heritage at three different courses in the North Central and Mid-Continent Regions. You will be reading more about this topic in the near future as it casts a shadow over gray leaf spot disease management and future use of perennial ryegrass.

We are at that point in the season when it is important to remind those that have not paid for their Turf Advisory Service visit this season to do so in the next few days. There is a \$300 per visit cost savings with payment received before May 15th. Even with early payment, visits can be scheduled whenever they best meet your course's needs. Thanks for your past support and as always we look forward to working with you this season. If your

golf course has never taken advantage of our Turf Advisory Service in the past, give us a call to discuss details/options.



The ONLY soil surfactant proven to PREVENT water repellency, localized dry spots and uneven soil wetting by improving the Matrix Flow of water in the rootzone.



Specifically designed to TREAT localized dry spots or wet areas and promote turf RECOVERY.



The INJECTABLE soil penetrant that increases water infiltration through thatch and into the rootzone. Improves overall turf quality.



Improves the performance of turf management chemicals such as herbicides and insecticides. Controls dew formation on greens, tees or fairways.

Turf Supply Company
*Aquatrols Turf
Product Distributor*

Larry Lennert
*Aquatrols
Territory Manager*

2797 Eagandale Blvd.
Eagan, MN 55121
Phone: (800) 551-3106
Fax: (651) 454-7884

5075 W. Coldspring Road
Greenfield, WI 53220
Phone: (414) 545-0259
larry.lennert@aquatrols.com
www.aquatrols.com