ADJUST PH (CONT.)

High evapotranspiration conditions compound this formation of salt deposits near the surface. As the soil dries, the concentration of dissolved salts reaches the saturation point, and the precipitate begins to form. Usually, this material is calcium bicarbonate that, as it dries in basic solution, forms calcium carbonate.

As calcium carbonate builds up in the soil, it alters the complete soil chemistry. Soils that began as sand or sandy loam can become rich in carbonates, and the processes that normally move salts are much less effective. In some cases, water movement is essentially stopped.

When the pH of irrigation water has been lowered and maintained between 6.5 and 6.8, results are dramatic. The precipitation reaction of carbonates is retarded as bicarbonate becomes more stable at the lower

Deposited carbonate salts can be dissolved quite rapidly, if necessary, by controlling the pH at 6.5 or even 6.0 for a short time. The lower pH provides extra hydrogen ions to react with the deposited calcite. Now it is possible to add fertilizer for the plant, rather than to control the pH.

IMPLICATIONS

When you can control water pH as you irrigate, soil pH can be lowered in a regulated, easily monitored, step-by-step procedure. When you maintain the pH at a set value, fertilizer efficiency is increased. Plant stress, which opens the door to pest problems, will decrease. You will be able

to manage your turf and ornamentals fertilizer program without having a soil pH problem.

Article by Tom Lubin, chemistry department, Cypress College, as seen in Rub of the Green, Feb. 1990.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

At a recent Board meeting for the purpose of reviewing our present membership, it was noted that quite a few of our members are qualified to take their class A&B exams. It is the goal of any good association to grow and prosper in order to survive. Ours is no exception. Too merely become a member is not enough. The Board realizes that due to the nature of our business it is sometimes hard to schedule the time to take your exam. The Board is also sensitive to the fact that some people have trouble taking exams. Trust me, you are not alone. It is for this reason we are setting up a special study session to help our members prepare for their exams. If you are interested in participating in the study session in September, please call Pete Galea, CGCS, at Crystal Springs GC, (415) 342-4188. Remember, this isn't only for the benefit of the association, it's for yours as well. Take the time and get involved.

ALL APPLICATIONS TO UPGRADE TO ANOTHER CLASS, MUST BE IN THE OFFICE BY SEPTEMBER 6 IF YOU PLAN TO TEST AT THE STUDY SESSION ON SEPTEMBER 18, 1990.

OUR HOST SUPERINTENDENT FOR AUGUST

Our host Superintendent Dave Sexton, CGCS, first golf course experience was as member of the grounds at Paso Robles Golf & CC while a senior at Cal Poly at San Luis Obispo. I received my BS degree in Ornamental Horticulture in December 1976 and was hired as the assistant Superintendent for the Ojai Valley Golf & CC in March 1977. On the second day on the job the Superintendent left to advance his career in the desert and I was given the position of Superintendent which I held for 4 years until moving to the Meadow Club in 1981.

The Meadow Club is a private Country Club setting in the coastal hills surrounding Marin county. It is a par 71, 6257 yard golf course designed by Dr. Alister MacKenzie in 1927.

The golf course has been the focus of a continuing renovation program. So far 53 of 65 bunkers have been completed, 7 teeing areas have been leveled, lengthened and realigned, all the bridges have been refinished, irrigation system was replaced in 1984, a lake was added, more than a mile of cart path has been replaced with concrete and several miles of drains installed, as well as several hundred trees and landscaping.

Start planning now to attend the BIG EVENT!
GCSAA's 62nd Golf Course Conference & Show