

## LANDSCAPE PROFILE

grassy weeds."

Berry uses a preventive program to treat cutworms and grubs. He also stops problems from developing by paying close attention to soil nutrition.

Berry, a strong believer in the use of potassium, uses 2½ lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. once monthly of 0-0-50 sulfate of potash.

He also uses 3 oz. per 1,000 sq. ft. of soluble potash each time greens are sprayed. By keeping phosphorus low, he has eliminated poa annua.

### Cost considerations

"We figure fertilizer use at a price per acre," Berry says, "and we have found that on the turf we have developed on our 27 holes, the IBDU is less costly than most nitrogens."

Robert C. Klinesteker, golf course superintendent at the San Francisco Golf Club, Calif., agrees. "We have to watch all maintenance costs," he says, "because we operate with union personnel."

Wages are \$10.54 per hour for a crew of nine on the 18-hole course.

Klinesteker first used slow-

release nitrogen in 1984, because he wanted density and steady growth.

"I didn't want a flush of growth," he explains. "We don't have help on weekends; we mow Friday and we can't have high fairways by Sunday."

Klinesteker used two applications of Par Ex 24-4-12 on fairways and tees this past season.

"We applied the slow-release at the 1 lb. rate," he says. "We like the residual which produces good results on our very drouthy and very loamy sand."

He previously used urea and ammonium sulfate and had problems with rank growth.

Klinesteker had four years of golf course experience in Michigan before coming to the California club as superintendent in 1982.

His biggest problem on the course has been growth of English daisy. He has practically killed out this weed pest by using Banvel, which also helps control poa.

Because of this, and a soil nutrition program, fairways and tees

are beginning to develop acceptable turf stands.

Management for this area is year-round. The Golf Club has some 500 members, although only 120 are active golfers.

"We can irrigate at will because the sand readily absorbs the water. But with slow-release nitrogen sources, we have found that we don't need to water as heavily," Klinesteker says.

He verticuts tees once monthly; and double verticuts greens each week.

Greens are cut six days each week with a walking mower; fairways every two weeks in summer at 7/16-inch height or at ½-inch. "Crew members," he says, "do a better job of repairing ball marks and other surface injuries. Riding crew members do not stop as readily and make the needed repairs."

Both superintendents couple good cultural practices throughout with their soil nutrition program; problems are fewer and less likely to develop.

WT&T

## BENTGRASS SHOWCASE

Having a premium playing surface is a must at Stonehenge Golf Course in Tennessee, so bentgrass fairways were the obvious choice. Being on the Cumberland Plateau made it a little easier.

**K**ee the ball out of the rough at Stonehenge Golf Course in Fairfield Glade, Tenn., and a golfer can play bentgrass from tee to green. That's a rarity that far south.

Stonehenge is one of three 18-hole resort courses. The decision to establish bentgrass fairways is a result of a combination of elevation and a strong disease maintenance program.

"We were working to make this a showcase course, and this type of turf provides a premium playing surface," explains superintendent Harold Franklin. "We knew establishing and maintaining the bent would be difficult and



The Cumberland Plateau offers the opportunity to combine scenery with challenging golf holes.

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public courses using some higher-priced materials. Most can't afford them. But Scott's not afraid to spend money, if he knows there is a long-term payoff.

"I'm working with Elanco," he mentions. "I'm using Rubigan on greens with poa to see if we can slowly convert them to bentgrass without damaging their playability."

"I wouldn't last too long at a country club," he claims. "I couldn't put up with a greens committee long—doctors and lawyers telling me how to grow grass. I don't know a thing about medicine or law; how can they know anything about turf?"

The Scotts dream of the day when they can sell their farmland to a development company. They own 150

acres, which is worth about \$1650 per acre now. Each acre would be worth about \$75,000 (\$25,000 per one-third acre) if a housing development were to materialize.

But until then, they are happy to live off greens fees.

"It's fun to be in the business now," Jay admits. "It's very lucrative."

## SLOW RELEASE, FAST RELIEF

Slow-release nitrogen sources are perfect for golf course situations in both warm-season and cool-season areas of the country. La Paloma and the San Francisco Golf Club are examples.

**K**ent Berry has a thing for Jack Nicklaus-designed courses. He spent seven years at Muirfield in Ohio before becoming head golf course superintendent at La Paloma Country Club, a new Nicklaus course.

La Paloma is a 27-hole facility, serving a resort of private homes and public hotel facilities. It was built literally on top of the desert floor.

Errant balls land in the desert. The newly sodded or seeded greens, tees, fairways and roughs are an oasis in the desert. Few golf courses match its beauty.

Berry joined La Paloma as superintendent just two years ago when construction began. The first 18 holes opened for play in November, 1984; the last nine holes last August.

"We irrigate daily," he says, "and find that this, along with close mowing speeds the activity of any plant food applications."

Berry says that by doing this, he sees response of a slow-release nitrogen in one week, compared with the usual four weeks in other geographic areas.

Since he waters every night with effluent, he uses IBDU (Estech's Par Ex brand), which depends on water for its release to the soil.

"We like the slow-release," Berry

says, "and we don't develop any thatch or burn. We feed greens every four weeks and keep them cut at 1/8-inch. This gives us good control of clippings and no growth surges. We even feed in cold weather since this nitrogen can handle our temperature



**Robert C. Klinesteker, superintendent at San Francisco Golf Club, uses a careful soil nutrition program coupled with herbicides to reduce English daisy and build strong fairway turf.**

extremes (110 to the 30s)."

Some fertilizers, he explains, require lots of mowing. The IBDU does not. Yet, in less than two years, new greens have developed 6- to 8-inch root systems.

He verticuts fairways every month and overseeds with ryegrass each season. Fairways are maintained at 3/8-inch and the rough at 1 1/4-inch. He verticuts greens every two weeks. Greens get 1/2 lb. per 1,000 sq. ft. at each feeding during the summer and 1 lb. in the remainder of the season. Fairways are treated about every two months.

"We have a strong turf," Berry says, "and few weeds. We use very little pre-emergents. At times we will spot spray a few broadleaf and grassy weeds."



**Kent Berry, superintendent at La Paloma, manages 27 holes laid on top of the desert floor. All turf has been newly sodded or seeded during the past two years.**