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.

Kent 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 ⅛-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 extremes (110 to the 30s)."

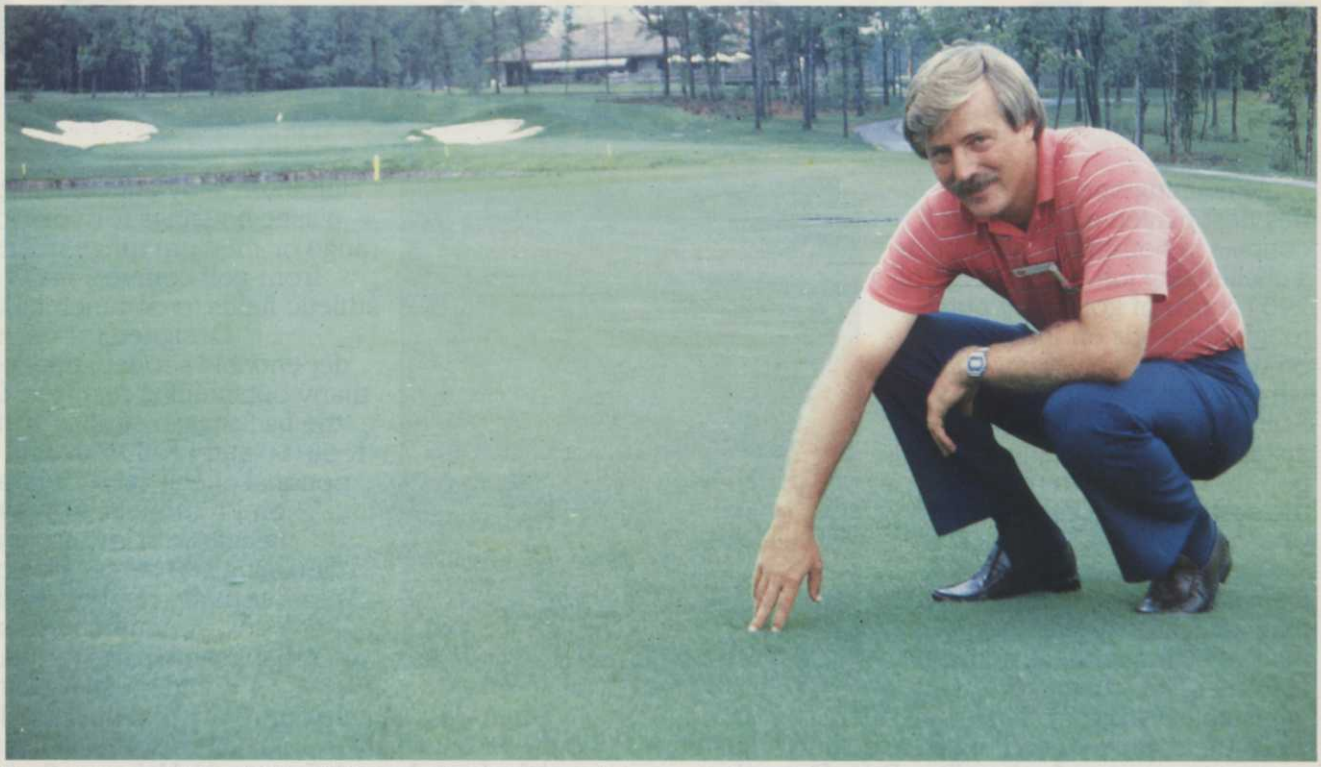
Some fertilizers, he explains, require lots of mowing. The IBDU does not. Yet, in less than two years, new greens have developed 6- to 8-inch root systems.

He verticuts fairways every month and overseeds with ryegrass each season. Fairways are maintained at ⅜-inch and the rough at 1¼-inch. He verticuts greens every two weeks. Greens get ½ 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."

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.

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.



Superintendent Harold Franklin says that bentgrass fairways improve the playability and "showcase" image of Stonehenge.

expensive, but we place a high value on the premium playing surface."

Stonehenge could use bentgrass because of the course's elevation. "The heat in the South normally makes maintenance of bentgrass fairways extremely difficult," Franklin says. "But we're located on the Cumberland Plateau, with an average elevation of 2,000 feet. Our temperatures don't get quite as hot during the day, and it cools into the high 60s most nights. The cool temperatures give the grass relief and a chance to recover."

Even with the advantages of a high elevation, the heat and humidity promote disease development. From June through mid-September, Franklin uses a monthly preventative fungicide program on the fairways, with tees and greens treated every three weeks.

Battling brown patch

Brown patch is his biggest disease problem during summer, and dollar spot, red thread and snow mold are additional threats at various times of the year.

"We use Chipco fungicide in the preventative program, alternating every third application with Bayleton or 2787," Franklin says. "We also have to go in at times between the monthly sprays under high disease pressure situations to hold brown patch in check."

Franklin supplements his preventative spray program by culturally managing fertility to reduce disease pressure. He applies potassium nitrate in mid-May and again in mid-September, to build the potassium levels for drought and disease resistance.

"During the summer months, we don't fertilize the bentgrass because we don't want to promote rapid growth during the disease-prone period," Franklin relates. "High levels of nitrogen just prior to the onset of hot, humid weather increases the severity of the disease, so we try to hold off and keep the bent on the 'lean' side."

Franklin concentrates on keeping the bluegrass rough as weed-free as possible to control potential weed contamination in the bentgrass. He uses Presan liquid as a pre-emergent spray on tees and greens, and the same product in a dry form, blended with 19-4-9 fertilizer, on the fairways. In the bluegrass rough, he uses the 19-4-9 mixed with Chipco Ronstar G for annual grass control.

Going hog wild

Franklin uses a thorough insecticide program to maintain the fairways. Sod webworm and black cutworm are two of the major insect pests.

Compounding the normal grub problems are uninvited guests—wild hogs—which can cause some unusual turf damage to the rural, wooded course.

"If we don't keep the grubs under control, wild hogs can come onto the course and start rooting for them," Franklin says. "This gives us an additional incentive to keeping our grub problems under control."

Before the bentgrass could be established at Stonehenge, Franklin and his staff had to contend with a rock problem on the course. Rock had to be blasted out in places to allow for installation of the Toro irrigation system, which also contributed to difficulty in maintaining a proper ground for the system's safety during storms. Rock just beneath the soil surface had to be removed, fill brought in, and then additional topsoil applied to prepare an adequate seedbed.

"We hydroseeded the entire course and the bentgrass established itself very well," Franklin says. "The grass was all ready for play by June, but we had to pave cart paths and get the bunkers ready in order to open."

All the work and maintenance necessary to care for bentgrass fairways pays off for the players, especially since it can be mowed closely. Stonehenge hosted the 1985 Tennessee Open in only its second year of existence.

"It's obvious that you want the course to look and play well, but you want the players to feel good about the course after they've left," Franklin summarizes. "We want them to appreciate the condition and playability of the course, and I think the appearance and playability of bentgrass fairways helps them to do so." **WT&T**