

Green Section Record

Volume 54, Issue 09

Turfgrass Fertilization

Supplement only when needed to provide better turf and playability.

By [Blake Meentemeyer](#) and [Brian Whitlark](#)

Soil is a living, breathing environment that provides many of the building blocks required to sustain healthy turf growth.

However, supplemental nutrition is typically necessary to strengthen critical plant components so turf can provide desirable playing surfaces. The judicious use of natural resources, including fertilizer, is a high priority in meeting the golf industry's goals of sustainability and resource conservation. Fertilizer programs do not need to be expensive to be effective. A "back to basics" approach to fertilization is best described by the great golf course architect Dr. Alister Mackenzie, who said "One cannot emphasize too frequently the importance of leaving God's gifts alone and never fertilizing unless it is certain that time and nature will fail to cure." This article will cover several aspects of turfgrass nutrition, including determining how much fertilizer is actually needed, fertilizing for enhanced playability, the economics of turfgrass fertilization, and dispelling some of the myths surrounding fertilizer applications.

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Multimedia Content



Webcast: How Fertilization Affects Your Golf Course

Whether you are growing a houseplant, a fruit tree or turfgrasses on a golf course, all plants have basic requirements for growth – including sunlight, water and nutrients.

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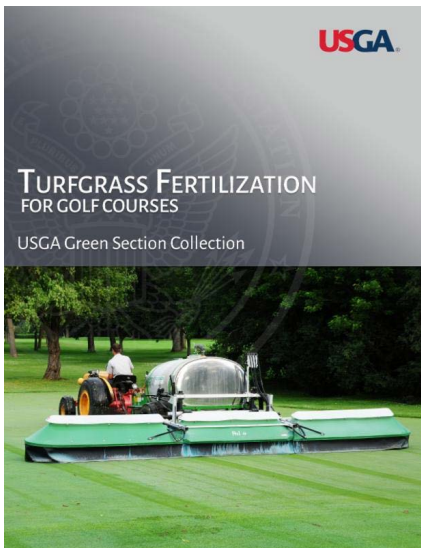


Video: Spraying On The Golf Course

Dave Oatis, regional director for the USGA Green Section's Northeast Region, explains the many purposes for spraying on the golf course and why this practice should not cause golfers to be concerned.

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Green Section Collection: Turfgrass Fertilization on Golf Courses



The USGA *Green Section Record* includes an interactive digital collection of supporting materials. In addition to this issue's major article, each digital collection includes supporting articles, a photo gallery and videos that provide additional, relevant information on the subject.

The collections can be viewed online in a user-friendly digital magazine format, saved as a PDF or printed. We hope you find this new feature to be a useful resource.

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Research You Should Know



Comparison of Foliar Nitrogen Sources for Putting Greens

Applying foliar fertilizers has become an increasingly prevalent practice. As a result, a staggering variety of foliar fertilizer packages are available. But how do foliar plant nutrient packages compare to urea and iron sulfate? Researchers at the University of Illinois set out to investigate foliar nitrogen sources and their effect on putting green performance.

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Fore The Golfer



Fertilize 'Fore' Playability

The cost of a round of golf is strongly correlated with the cost required to produce desirable playing surfaces. While fertilizers make up a small percentage of the golf course maintenance budget, using them judiciously helps control costs while providing desirable playing conditions.

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Regional Updates



West Region

The nitrogen in recycled irrigation water can over-stimulate turf growth. Should you adjust your fertility program when using recycled water?

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Northeast Region

Struggling with *Poa annua* seedheads and worried about annual bluegrass weevils? Read this Regional Update to learn more about strategies for dealing with these perplexing problems.

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Central region

Now is not the time to fall behind on practice tee divots. Develop a sound divot-management program before the cumulative effects of wear and traffic leave little more than artificial-turf mats for practice.

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Southeast Region

In today's economic climate, efficiency and resource management are not only admirable – they are necessary for long-term sustainability.

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United States Golf Association
77 Liberty Corner Road
Far Hills, NJ 07931
908.234.2300

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