

NTGCSA Chapter Championship

Thanks to all that joined us for the 2022 Chapter Championship! Texas Rangers Golf Club was an incredible host and our golfers were rewarded with great playing conditions!

This year's superintendent champion is Ed Martinez. Tyler Ellis repeated as assistant superintendent champion and Austin Brown is our affiliate champion.



Big thanks to our Platinum sponsor Helena and Gold sponsor EZ-Go Cushman for helping us to put on a great event!

Flight Results

Superintendent Flight - Gross

1. Ed Martinez
2. Frank Darnell
3. Charlie Trammell

Superintendent Flight - Net

1. Michael Moore
2. Aaron Schick
3. Cody Crowther

Assistant Flight - Gross

1. Tyler Ellis
2. Carlos Lara
3. Greg Jones

Assistant Flight - Net

1. Carlos Lara
2. Tyler Ellis
3. Greg Jones

Affiliate Flight - Gross

1. Austin Brown
2. Drue Thompson
3. Kody Key

Affiliate Flight - Net

1. Hunter Elwood
2. Jeff Smith
3. Chris Swain

Proximity Winners

Closest to the Pin on Hole 3

Ryan Rogers

Closest to the Pin on Hole 6

Tony Bevalo

Closest to the Pin on Hole 11

Johnny Walker

Longest Drive on Hole 8

Neil Packard



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mark.claburn@arlingtontx.gov

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Trevor Ogden
mepps@miravistacountryclub.com

Affiliate Directors

Todd Gilmour
toddgolf1@yahoo.com

Curt Franklin
curt@ameriturf.com

Chapter Executive

Shannon Phillips
ntgcsa@gmail.com 469-630-2571
2560 King Arthur Blvd., Suite 124-115
Lewisville, TX 75056

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CPAg

Upcoming Events

Family Social
July 16, 2022
PinStack Plano

Fall Education
August 3, 2022
Texas A&M Agrilife Extension

September Golf and Meeting
September 2022
Location TBD

Texas Trophy
September 25, 26, 27
Squaw Valley, Glen Rose

Shop Tour
October 12, 2022
Trinity Forest

Annual Meeting
October 26, 2022
Location TBD

Scholarship Tournament
November 21, 2022
Las Colinas Country Club

Other Events and Dates to be announced soon!

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President's Message

BMP's and Water Restrictions... this is why we implement!

Nothing like the heat and scorch of a hot July summer?? Wait, early July? My GOD... its only early July, and its already this hot and dry?

We all have different water situations and sources, and its amazing how it can change so drastically from site to site. But one thing is for sure, we desperately need it and when mother nature isn't helping, we all feel the pain. This was a much bigger issue just some eight years ago when lake levels were at record lows and water restrictions were strict and painful. I use this example to highlight the potential for early planning and the anticipation for early restrictions as regulation may start to hit across the state. This was the topic that really sparked the Best Management Practice (BMP) movement and its application as a tool for our success, and our defense.

BMP implementation is crucial in order to showcase how well we manage water throughout our industry. This is the tool we can use to show restriction agencies, whether it be a city council, water boards or environmental agencies, just how well our properties are managed and resources valued. Water is only a part of the overall picture this tool provides, but current conditions make it such a vital part of your course's profile. We need to be armed with information, planning, and details to show how well all resources are managed on a course by course level.

We continue to make a push for implementation throughout 2022 in the North Texas chapter and I personally ask for your help and support in developing your course's specific BMP profile and outline. We plan to have another template walk thru and workshop again this winter when time management isn't at its limits. And, keep in mind, creating your course's BMP is more about highlighting and showing off what you do at your property, how you manage your resources, and how course sustainability is accomplished. Along the way we all hope to learn something new and improve how we manage. Help us educate those around us how well we manage and we continue to break the stereotype of glutens on the golf course.

<https://www.gcsaa.org/environment/bmp-planning-guide>

Jason Wiedeman
2022 NTGCSA President

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August 1

2023 Dog Days of Golf Calendar submissions due

August 15

Emerging Leader Award nominations due

August 15

Outstanding Contribution Award nominations due

August 15

Edwin Budding Award nominations due

September 12

Research Grant Proposals due

My Journey with Skin Cancer, Stephen Best

Editor's note: This article, "My Journey with Skin Cancer" was authored by Stephen Best, and originally appeared in the Lone Star GCSA official publication, Lone Star Links. This time of year is always a good time to revisit the dangers of working outside. Stephen ultimately lost his battle with skin cancer and passed away in October, 2011. Take care of yourselves!

Between tournaments, daily turf management, and long-term maintenance planning, you may find that the last thing on your mind is ... yourself. Before you think that this is another self-help lecture, take two minutes to read my story.

Have you ever had the following thoughts:

- "I'll remember to throw on some sunscreen – later."
- "I have a family doctor – I don't really need a dermatologist too, do I?"
- "I had the mole removed and I'm sure glad that's finished. I'll do my annual skin cancer screenings – some other year."

I am surviving Stage 4 melanoma - day by day and treatment by treatment – and I have made all of these comments at one time or another. Unfortunately, our time in the outdoors, which is one of the wonderful perks of our profession, brings a higher risk of skin cancer for us than for our office-dwelling friends and neighbors. In fact, skin cancer is the leading type of cancer.

My Journey

Three years ago, I had a cancerous mole removed from my back. There was no cancer found in the immediate area or in my lymph nodes. I did see a dermatologist every six months. I was given the option to seek further treatment with an Oncologist, however; I chose not to pursue annual screenings for melanoma. I believed that I was clean, so that was good with me.

It was a mistake and I should have made an appointment with an oncologist for semi-annual (every six months) screenings. Melanoma is very aggressive and is prone to re-appear. It only takes one cell to get away and travel in your system.

Continued on page 8

My Journey with Skin Cancer, continued from page 7

Would annual screenings have found the melanoma that later re-surfaced in my brain? Honestly, we'll never know. I do know that even the slightest chance of avoiding the tumor that bled into my brain on February 5, 2010 would have been worth all of the follow-up screenings in the world. I experienced stabbing pain in my head and woke up two weeks later at Zale Lipshey Hospital in Dallas to learn that a malignant tumor had erupted in my brain. Follow-up tests indicated that the cancer had metastasized to four lesions on my left lung, one lesion on my adrenal gland, and one lesion on my liver.

Since the excruciatingly painful eruption of the brain lesion, I have had 10 treatments of full brain radiation, two gamma knife radiation surgeries, and six cycles of chemotherapy (note: one cycle is a 4-day treatment of three different chemos each day).

My Inspiration

You may be wondering whether I had any symptoms to alert me that something so sinister was lurking in my body. I don't mind telling you that I was in the best physical shape of my life until that day last February. I was running 30 miles every week and had even completed the 2008 Austin Marathon in 4 hours, 42 minutes. As a matter of fact, I have drawn a lot of strength from that accomplishment and keep my medal with me during my treatments as a reminder of the inner fortitude I'll need to overcome a challenge like this one.

I have had the good fortune to work for the owner of Sky Creek Ranch in Keller, Texas, for 13 years now. He and the Sky Creek Ranch maintenance team have risen to the challenge of my limitations – filling in the gaps and developing in expanded roles more quickly and deeply than I could have imagined.

Continued on page 9



Lone Star Chapter
GCSAA

Save The Date

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September 25 - 27



My Journey with Skin Cancer, continued from page 8

Ultimately, however, my faith has been the difference between despair and hopefulness. Prior to the rupture of the tumor in my brain, God had inspired my wife, Cheryle, and I to join a new congregation.

The congregation of Northwood Church in Keller has supported our family through the trials associated with diagnosis, treatment, and my slow and unsteady recovery. I am inspired daily to share my faith with folks facing their own struggles and embrace the blessings of others in return.

God gave me great tools to meet this challenge: a strong body, a vigorous faith, a supportive community, an awesome sister, great brother and sister in laws, and last, but not least, my loving wife Cheryle, who is the rock that keeps everything going for our family.

My Future

While my original prognosis looked bleak, we have found hope at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. As of this writing, the chemo and radiation are working on the lesions in my brain, lung, and liver. I work, jog, and stay as active as I can with my two children, Harrison (10) and Addyson (7). I have experienced setbacks, but my faith and my family do not let me face them alone.

This article is one of my first steps to advocating for increased awareness of skin cancer and the proper steps to preventing it in high-risk groups, such as the Texas Turfgrass Association, Local Superintendent Associations, and through National GCSAA. Someday, I hope to look back at this experience with the same sense of accomplishment as I felt when I finished that 26.2-mile marathon in Austin.

Your Future

This is taken from the MD Anderson Skin Care Center:

The two most common kinds of skin cancer:

Basal cell carcinoma accounts for more than 90% of all skin cancers. It is a slow-growing cancer that seldom spreads to other parts of the body. However, if left untreated, it can spread to nearby areas and invade bone and other tissues under the skin.

Squamous cell carcinoma is much less common than basal cell carcinoma. It can be more aggressive than basal cell carcinoma and is also more likely to grow deep below the skin and spread to distant parts of the body.

These types of skin cancer are sometimes called nonmelanoma skin cancer. When they are found early, there is nearly a 100% chance for cure.

Another type of cancer that occurs in the skin is melanoma, which begins in the cells that produce pigment in the skin. It is less common than basal or squamous cell skin cancers, but it is more dangerous than either and can be deadly. If caught early, there is nearly a 97% chance for cure.

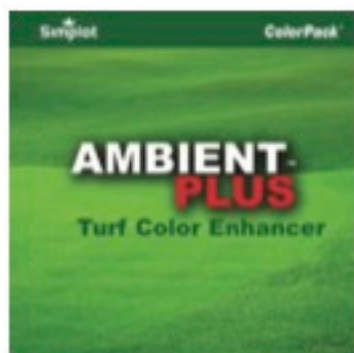
Symptoms of Skin Cancer

Symptoms of skin cancer vary from person to person and may include a:

- Change on the skin, such as a new spot or one that changes in size, shape or color
- Sore that doesn't heal
- Spot or sore that changes in sensation, itchiness, tenderness or pain

Continued on page 11

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My Journey with Skin Cancer, continued from page 9

- Small, smooth, shiny, pale or waxy lump
- Firm red lump that may bleed or develops a crust
- Flat, red spot that is rough, dry or scaly

Many of these symptoms are not cancer, but if you notice one or more of them for more than two weeks, see your doctor.

Tips from the Skin Cancer Foundation website:

- Asymmetry - If you draw a line through this mole, the two halves will not match.
- Border - The borders of an early melanoma tend to be uneven. The edges may be scalloped or notched.
- Color - Having a variety of colors is another warning signal. A number of different shades of brown, tan or black could appear. A melanoma may also become red, blue or some other color.
- Diameter - Melanomas usually are larger in diameter than the size of the eraser on your pencil (1/4 inch or 6 mm), but they may sometimes be smaller when first detected.
- Evolving - Any change — in size, shape, color, elevation, or another trait, or any new symptom such as bleeding, itching or crusting — points to danger.

Risk Factors

The greatest risk for developing all types of skin cancers comes from sunburns. People with fair skin and those who tend to burn easily are more at risk.

Other risk factors include:

- Age. The longer a person's skin is exposed to the sun over time, the higher the risk of developing skin cancer.
- Appearance. People who have red or blond hair, fair skin, freckles and blue or light-colored eyes are more at risk of developing skin cancer. Skin cancer occurs less often in Hispanics, Asians and African-Americans. However, darker-skinned people and those who tan easily can still develop skin cancer as well as suffer other long-term effects of exposure to ultraviolet light, like dry skin and premature aging.
- Climate. People who live in sunny climates are at an increased risk for skin cancer.

Preventing Skin Cancer

The main way to avoid skin cancer is to protect yourself from the sun's ultraviolet rays. There are several ways to do this. These include:

- Stay indoors or avoid unnecessary sun exposure, especially between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., when the sun's rays are the strongest. When you are outside, remember that the shorter your shadow, the more damaging the sun's rays.
- Use sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 15 or higher, depending on your skin type. SPF measures a sunscreen's protection against UVB rays only, so look for sunscreen that protects against both UVA and UVB rays.

Continued on page 13

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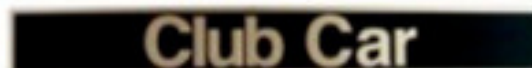
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My Journey with Skin Cancer, continued from page 11

- Apply a sunscreen as part of your daily routine. Do so generously for maximum protection, especially on body parts easily overlooked (i.e., lips, tops of ears, head, back of neck and hands and feet). Some moisturizers and foundation include sunscreen.
- Apply sunscreen 30 minutes before going into the sun.
- If you are perspiring or in the water, you must reapply sunscreen more often regardless of the instructions on the packaging.
- Wear protective clothing (e.g., wide-brimmed hats, long-sleeved shirts and pants, sunglasses with UV protection).
- Stay in the shade, and avoid reflective surfaces such as water, sand, snow and concrete. You can burn from indirect exposure to the sun.
- Beware of cloudy days. You can still get burned.
- Don't use sunlamps or tanning beds. There is no such thing as a safe tan.

For further information please visit the MD Anderson Web Site on Skin Cancer.

I recommend the following actions to take care of yourself and your family properly in the event of an unexpected medical emergency:

- Purchase life insurance as soon as you can, if you don't already have it. Once you are diagnosed with a life-threatening illness, you will not be able to obtain it. Get it done.
- Make a will or set up a trust. Don't leave the disposition of your assets to a court-appointed authority.
- Stay on top of your health. If it were not for my dedication to running, I would not be able to survive the rigors of my treatment.
- Get your annual physicals. I have skipped annual physicals in the past. Trust me, that attitude does not work. I want to know everything now so I have a better chance at survival.
- When you go see a dermatologist make sure you go to a skin cancer specialist and not a specialist devoted to beauty enhancement, such as Botox treatments. If you are having trouble finding one of them just give me a call and I will help you.

Skin cancer, if detected early, is very treatable. I encourage you to take my poor choices (lack of proper skin care in my early career and follow-up) and my good choices (faith, fellowship, and family) to heart. I am on a mission to spread the awareness of skin cancer not only to all of you but to a lot more. I am hoping to someday have a foundation that is as big as some of the others out there. It has become personal to me and I want and hope you all take this seriously.

Consult your doctor and take a bit more time to take care of yourself.

I want to thank Jane Smith from Keller for helping me write this article as I had trouble getting what was on my heart on to paper.

I would also like to thank all my family, my owner, GM, co-workers, my friends at Northwood Church and my incredible wife for helping me get through this year. I could not have done it without you. I would list everyone but it would be another page.

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NTGCSA Updates

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Regular Membership for Superintendents /
Assistants (A, B, C) - \$120

Bronze Membership for Affiliates (AF) - \$450

Regular Membership for Affiliates (AF) - \$120

Emerald and Bronze members get all meetings paid for in advance. This is a discounted rate for paying meeting fees up front. This does not include the annual banquet or the scholarship tournament.

You can find more information on membership on our Web site at <http://ntgcsa.org/membership-application/>.

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Member Spotlight - Dallas National Assistant Superintendent - Tyler Ellis

1. Tell me about Dallas National Golf Club.

Dallas National was designed by Tom Fazio and was opened in 2002. We have Bentgrass greens. Our fairways, tees and rough are all Zoysia. It is a very unique piece of property that makes you forget that you are in a major city or even in Texas at times, due to all of the elevation changes and how secluded it is. It is a fun and rewarding job to come to every day. It has a great work environment and is a great place to work.

2. How did you get into the business?

I studied Turfgrass Science in college and then did an internship at Dallas National with Neil Packard while still in school and haven't looked back since.

3. What teams do you root for?

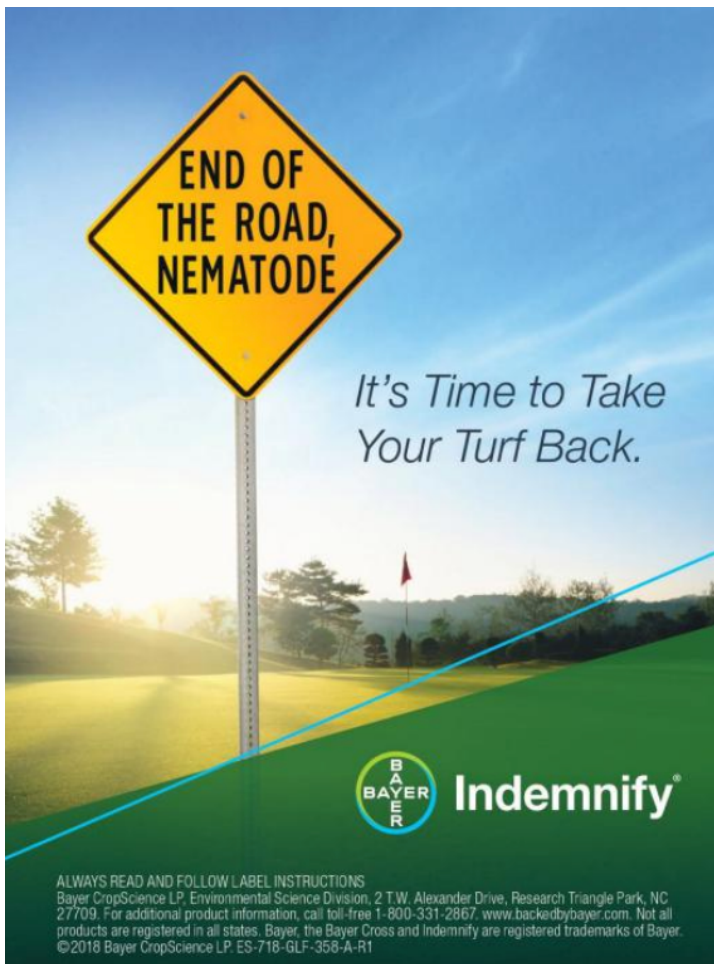
The Dallas Cowboys and the Dallas Stars.

4. Who is someone you'd liked to have met?

Jackie Robinson because I'd like to see and learn more about his work ethic and mental toughness despite all of the adversity he faced.

5. What is one thing readers don't know about you, that they might be interested to learn?

One thing readers probably don't know about me is that I played football on a full scholarship at Tarleton State University.



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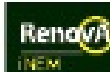
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Member Spotlight - Las Colinas Superintendent - Ed Martinez

1. How did you get into the business?

I was an education major in college. I had a couple of fraternity buddies convince me to play nine holes at a course in Farwell TX, and was instantly hooked. I started working on the maintenance crew at Colonial Park CC in Clovis, NM while in college. I knew I wanted to do something in golf, just wasn't sure what that was. After college, we moved to Austin where I decided I wanted to be a golf pro. I started working at Bluebonnet Hills GC trying to get into the shop as an assistant pro. I quickly realized that was not the career move for me. So, I transferred down to the maintenance crew there and the rest is history as they say. I have been extremely fortunate to have worked under some great superintendents that have taught me everything I know.

2. Tell me about Las Colinas Country Club.

Las Colinas was built in 1963 on the old Carpenter Cattle Ranch. It is a Joe Finger design, which was renovated in 2019-2020 by Jim Lipe. We renovated tee to green including irrigation. We previously had bent grass greens which we converted to Champion G12 bermuda. Tees, green surrounds, and fairways were converted from 419 to Trinity Zoysia.

3. What teams do you root for?

Having lived in Houston for 10 years I became a loyal Astros fan. Also a Texas Longhorn Fan. Now that we are in DFW we have been introduced to hockey and are hooked. Naturally, we root for the Stars, and have a couple Stars players that are members at Las Colinas Country Club.

5. What has been the toughest obstacle to overcome in your career?

I've been fortunate to work in this business for 20 plus years. Every course has its challenges, but weather is one that we can never defeat. These days finding labor is becoming extremely tough. Hard to produce consistent playing conditions when you're short staffed.

6. If you could play a round of golf with any PGA professional past or present, who would you want to play with?

My dream foursome would be Payne Stewart, Lee Trevino, Tiger and Wil Zalatoris.

7. What is one thing readers don't know about you, that they might be interested to learn?

I was an All-Star basketball player in NM. Played basketball religiously throughout college.

8. If you had an hour of free time, how would you spend it?

These days any free time I have I spend with my wife and our grandson; Parker will be two in July and loves to play with all my putters. Hopefully, he will be a better putter than his Papa E!

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Soil Fertility and Testing Basics, Bud White, CPAg

As golf course superintendents all agree, soil and irrigation testing are a critical part of quality turf management. Superintendents must thoroughly understand soil and water makeup to provide the best fertility program, although the attention to detail with these elements are sometimes taken for granted.

The turfgrass industry has, however, veered away from the basics of soil fertility today with too many liquid “additives” and complicated soil test reports showing many “ratios” that mean very little to soil health or fertility programs. Do not lose sight of the fact that granular Nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) are still the foundations of fertility today—not liquid additives!

First, begin with a closer look at soil testing. I personally use the Texas A&M lab for soil, water and tissue testing because the lab uses SLAN, which is the most accurate and basic soil testing method. It is also readable! The old standard testing method uses the base saturation method which can include many ratios that do not increase the understanding of soil fertility. SLAN lists a critical fertility level in nutrients, either under or over, enabling the superintendent to build fertility programs based on actual need of the nutrients.

Another test used extensively in turf soil testing today that does not provide the proper information for soil nutrient levels is the saturated paste extract test (SPE). This test was developed in 1955 by the U.S. Soil and Salinity lab and was designed to test the ER, SAR and boron ONLY. When measuring source salts, it is a very informative test, but is useless for nutrient measuring. This link will take you to excellent article by Dr. Bob Carrow, first printed in *Golf Course Management*: [Clarifying soil testing: I. Saturated paste and dilute extracts: Superintendents who know how to interpret soil tests correctly can save their grass.](#)

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Soil Fertility and Testing Basics, continued from page 23

Regarding irrigation water testing/irrigation suitability testing, I have always recommended superintendents test irrigation water in early spring when water quality is typically the best. Test again in late summer, normally when water quality is the worst. If you experience water quality fluctuations, you can develop a baseline for soil amendment needs. Take a fresh sample from an irrigation head and send it overnight to the lab for the best results.

Tissue testing is a great tool to evaluate programs and make sure the needed nutrient levels of the turfgrass are getting into the plant. I suggest about three greens be tested in the early part of the growing season to measure application to nutrient tissue content. This serves as a very effective “balance sheet” for fertilization evaluation to determine if your fertilization program is doing what you thought or need.

With these guidelines set, let's consider some fertility program basics. Soil amendments are very basic applications to meet deficiencies in the soil or aid in specific problems, like gypsum applications to help flush sodium. For example, a simple application to add calcium and or magnesium is dolomitic lime at 10 to 15 pounds per 1000 sq. ft. based on need. These rates do not affect soil pH.

For salt issues resulting in the need to flush, there is a four-step process that must be done for successful results:

- Vent
- Gypsum – apply 6 to 10 pounds of greens grade gypsum per 1000 sq. ft.
- Flush
- Apply potassium and minors

Gypsum, pound per pound, is the best for sodium flushing and not liquids or other sodium flush “substitutes”. Again, check with soil science articles or reference books on the subject. Potassium is put down the day after flushing at 1 lb. K per 1000 sq. ft. of actual K. Remember, actual K is calculated by the amount of K₂O multiplied by 1.2. Your routine weekly spray should also follow a flushing the next day to get minors, etc., right back into the system/soil solution.

Several years ago, our industry went through a period of lowering nitrogen for more speed. Unfortunately, many courses went from low nitrogen to insufficient nitrogen, and disease, algae, turf heartiness, etc., was greatly impacted. Look closely at your nitrogen levels to make sure they are adequate for plant health. Checking the tissue test percentage of N in the leaves is a great help here.

Moreover, don't forget the “old school” test of color, density, texture, clipping yield and recovery time in higher traffic areas, i.e., around the Saturday hole locations. Gauge this to your PGR program as well as clipping yield.

Use of foliar versus granular fertilization on the golf course should be another careful consideration. Any fertility program should be at least 50% granular to provide nutrients to the soil as well as to the plants. Approximately 70% of slow-release materials are excellent for providing this need and balance quick-release and slow-release. Often, turf fertility programs are too heavy in foliar programs today, and soil fertility, the basics of plant nutrition, suffers. N, P and K should be primarily from granular, especially P and K. Other minors such as magnesium and manganese are also effectively added granularly as fertilizer packages or with foliar programs.

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Dusty Daniel

806-787-2283

DustyDaniel@bwicompanies.com

Colby Johnson

972-207-2981

ColbyJohnson@bwicompanies.com

Philip Davis

940-447-6365

PhilipDavis@bwicompanies.com



bwicompanies.com



Soil Fertility and Testing Basics, continued from page 24

Phosphorus, potassium, magnesium and manganese are very important to root development and health as well as rhizome health. A starter application should be a regular part of your fertility program in spring and fall, at 1/2 pound of actual P per 1000 sq. ft. for each application. Remember, the formula for actual P is $P2O5 \times 2.29$. Phosphorus applications, however, can be a problem with poa annua aggressiveness in bentgrass. When soil pH is 6.0 or below, the bentgrass will thrive over the poa. When P levels in the soil solution are 6 ppm, poa will thrive, but lesser levels are favorable to the bent, not the poa annua. Watch your levels carefully to maintain low available P but not insufficient.

- Bentgrass – Fall, according to soil test needs
- Bermudagrass – March and August

The starter applications promote root and rhizome significantly, especially when applied at correct times related to the growing season(s).

Plant biostimulants such as humates, microbes, carbohydrates, etc., are supplements, not mainstay applications and should not be utilized in this way. N, P, K and major/minors such as calcium (Ca), iron (Fe), magnesium (M), manganese (Mn) are the foundations of a healthy and proper fertility program/plan.

Take a closer look at your fertility programs with an emphasis on basic fertility programming. Use soil, water and tissue testing results to their full extent, and remember—advice is great, but no one knows your turf, soils and environment better than you. Devise your own programs with assistance from a qualified person to help with details like nutrient source selection, mixing/blending details and percent slow release of nitrogen depending on how quickly or how long you want the product to feed.

Soil science, in many aspects, is the most important part of our program set up and management - for the turf and the soil. Therefore, I emphasize the importance of granulars because fertility into the soils is just as important as into the plants. That cannot be done with liquids only. I encourage you to take another close look at your soil tests and try a lab like the universities that give complete yet organized reporting and not 'litter' the soil test report with confusing, unimportant testing results. Your soil, water and tissue reports should be a tool that you refer to constantly. Email me if I can ever help with soil or water testing questions-

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