



SOIL and WATER CONSULTING

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Consultant

November 4, 2020

Re: Fall Sample Collection

Summary of lab data:

- *The greens should continue to receive monthly applications of the acid sprays and 2 pounds of product per 1,000 square feet rate applications of 0-0-50 and Manganese Sulfate until at least December. Then again in February if weather is normal.*

Dear Luis,

I was glad we were able to connect on my recent trip to Las Vegas. I see such nice progress on your course each time I come, and it is helpful to you for me to make consistent visits, so I don't miss anything. The greens are nearly free of bermudagrass contamination and the recent spraying and then seeding of the edges was a great idea. The seeding will probably need to be done again in Spring and next Fall, but I do think it is a good way to address the regular encroachment of the bermudagrass.

When I was there, you were almost ready to open the course from overseeding. You had used a 550 pounds per acre rate of seed. That is light in comparison to many in the Valley, but it had come in well. Also, when you became superintendent, you decided to promote the bermudagrass and make that the main grass. So, to make that happen and continue to progress, overseeding must be light rates. I think that you can still have an attractive course in the Winter months, but the golfers need to understand that the playing conditions will be good but the amount of ryegrass they hit the ball from will be less. The applications of 15-15-15 prior to my visit showed up as plenty of nitrogen in the soil tests. I think spraying pigment on tees and fairways will be all you really need to have a good paying surface with good color. The use of urea and iron could be reduced to almost nothing by using the pigments. I have never seen the urea and iron spray solutions give more color than a good pigment and there is no growth that comes along with paints and pigments. It will save you time if nothing else.

On this trip, I had many Superintendents tell me how hard it is to find and keep crew members or that hours had been reduced even if they had full staff. That seemed to be your position too. However, you seem to have the core of your staff intact and that leads to better course conditions. As the COVID-19 issue persists, I believe 2021 will see a need to reduce budgets even more. This is when I think this sort of information becomes more valuable. Many Superintendents try to save fertilizer dollars by not applying anything even though they may need something specific and others simply guess and apply a nitrogen-based fertilizer. Now is a time to know what should be applied and what cultural practices make a difference on your specific grounds.

When you have time, let's catch up on how the course is doing since my visit.

Sincerely,
Corey Angelo
Soil and Water Consulting

