Stabilized Nitrogen Technology

In Action

Real Successes in the Field

UMAXX® STABILIZED NITROGEN FERTILIZER

Palouse Ridge Golf Club at Washington State University

Course Overview

- Public Golf Course
- Todd Lupkes, Golf Course Superintendent
- Located at Washington State University in Pullman, Wash.
- 18 holes
- Course Designer: John Harbottle III
- Set to open in summer 2008

Regional Climate and Soil Conditions

- High desert climate – hot summers, cold winters
- Soil is silt loam

An Environmental Haven

Set to open in summer 2008, Palouse Ridge Golf Club is the design of John Harbottle III. Known for the playability and environmental sensitivity of his course architecture, the new course is located on the campus of Washington State University in Pullman, Wash.

Palouse Ridge will be home to the nationally ranked Washington State University Cougars men's and women's golf teams, and will also serve the golfing needs of university faculty and students, the surrounding community and visitors from throughout the region.

In addition, the course will provide the opportunity to host a number of tournaments, from local, state and regionally sanctioned contests to NCAA and Pac-10 Conference events.

Palouse Ridge remains an environmental haven, thanks to its namesake palouse prairie strip that remains a pristine stretch of undeveloped land and a surrounding seven-acre wetland area.

The greens are seeded with T-1 creeping bentgrass, while the tees and fairways are Kentucky bluegrass, and the rough is rye fescue. These varieties were chosen for their excellent disease- and stress-resistance, as well as their tolerance for extreme conditions.

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Challenging Conditions Call For Steady Nutrition

Aside from overseeing the building process of the golf course, superintendent Todd Lupkes, CGCS, faces some specific challenges, including weather, environmental concerns and turf nutrition.

"The weather here is definitely a concern," said Lupkes. "The winters are very cold and the summers are really hot, and there's almost no humidity. Water conservation is an issue."

One of Lupkes' biggest challenges is turf nutrition. Because of such varying weather conditions and high levels of turf stress, Lupkes chose aggressive seed varieties with high stress tolerance that would perform well under extreme conditions. As a result, the seed often requires more food than is available.

"I wanted to have nitrogen readily available in the soil at all times. I didn't want peaks and valleys," Lupkes said. "We needed the turf to fill in faster, grow stronger and keep its color."

UMAXX Provides an Even Feed

Lupkes researched many products, finally deciding on granular UMAXX from AGROTAIN International. UMAXX is a highly efficient nitrogen source, uniquely formulated with proprietary enzyme blockers that minimize nitrogen loss. This formulation keeps nitrogen in the soil in its stable, ammonium form, exactly as plants need it.

"I love research," said Lupkes. "Finding the right treatment was basically a big research project for me and UMAXX really impressed me."

"One of the first things I noticed was that the color really held," he said. "People were coming up to me, commenting on how spectacular the color is – that's a wonderful thing to hear."

Because UMAXX remains readily available in the soil, Lupkes' turf now has the proper amount of nitrogen available at all times. In addition, the use of UMAXX results in less ammonia volization and leaching, which is very important due to the environmental concerns on the course.

Lupkes says his experience has been overwhelmingly positive, from the UMAXX performance to the care and service he's received from AGROTAIN. With just weeks before the course opening, he's making sure everything is in place.

"We're really looking forward to this year," said Lupkes. "I already made my UMAXX order, so I think we're ready to go."

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