

General Diamond Green Maintenance Program

This program has been compiled from numerous superintendents' experience of managing Diamond on greens in the Southeast as well as management trials at the farm. Use this guide as a starting point and fine tune to fit your golf course conditions and expectations. Plan for 2.5 lbs. N - .5 lbs. P – 3 lbs. K per year (per 1000 square feet). Perform and monitor soil tests to maintain adequate base fertility levels.

Diamond Greens Fertility

Spring: Diamond root growth starts at 65 degrees. Apply a low N – low P – high K fertilizer as grass starts growing, 5-5-30 or equivalent. Most superintendents start foliar applications at 1/10 lbs. N plus a 2X rate of Iron for color applied every two weeks.

Summer: Apply a 1-0-1 or 1-0-2 ratio fertilizer based on 1 lb. K and high percentage slow-release N. Continue to spoon feed N and Iron every two weeks and add Primo Growth Regulator. Start at 3 to 4 oz. per acre and fine tune to your needs. Most superintendents are mowing at .100 to .115 for summer.

Fall: Diamond continues to grow later into the summer and fall compared to Bermuda. As temps cool and clippings reduce, discontinue growth regulator. A final application of K Mag. Sulpo-mag is recommended in early fall.

Fungicide Recommendations

The base fungicide program for Diamond is Pro-Star or equivalent in early September and again in early October to prevent Brown Patch. Most superintendents are applying a March or April application in the spring as well. Daconil or equivalent is used for Dollar Spot control.

Seed Heading

In spring with extreme temperature changes, Diamond will form a small rust-colored seed head. It is extremely unlikely for Diamond to produce a viable seed, but there is a possibility. To prevent germination, apply 24 oz. of Atrazine per acre in the spring and fall as this occurs. The Atrazine also provides herbicide activity on poa annua and other broadleaf weeds.

Core Aerification

Most courses are core aerifying with ½” coring tines once per year in the summer. July is the best timing for quick recovery and fill in. Fill holes with topdressing. ¼” solid tines and bayonet tines are also being used with good success.

General Maintenance

It is very important to run groomers or brushes on Diamond to facilitate an upright growth habit. Light frequent topdressing is also recommended. Most superintendents lightly verticut to allow sand into canopy. Average timing is 10 days to two weeks.

Take care not to scalp Diamond. Rolling greens along with mowing helps in lowering mowing heights to the 1/10" range.

Diamond is now proving to be more capable of smoother and truer putting conditions than Bermudagrass when properly maintained.

We now have numerous superintendents maintaining putting speeds of 9 to 10 for summer and 10 to 12 for fall, winter and spring.