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Feeding Your Athletic Surfaces

- What's your goal?
 - Field **safety** - Maintain seasonal shoot density (green cover)
 - Sustained, steady vigor (recovery-divots etc.)
 - Green color? (aesthetics)
- Other considerations
 1. Owner/User expectations?
 2. Anticipated use intensity?
 3. Growing environment (aerial and soil environments?)
 4. Turfgrass species?

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General Nutrition Notes

Think income and expenses analogy (plant carbohydrates are your currency)-DON'T RUN OUT!

Cool-season grasses (e.g. bluegrasses, fescues, P. ryegrass)

- Emphasize aggressive N fertility during the late-summer and fall months to promote summer recovery, shoot density and preparation for winter, lower N-rates suggested for early spring. What about summer N? "It depends..."

Warm-season (e.g. bermudagrass)

- Emphasis feeding during active growth (June-Aug.) with lower rates in early spring and late-fall. Use care with fertilizer sources and rates to minimize unwanted summer growth surges which may require unwanted mowing/scalping.

Note: This assumes sufficient soil test levels for macronutrients (e.g. P and K, etc.)

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Fertilizer Products

Another possible consideration for closer cut surfaces and desire for lower product application rates may be the particle size of the product

Which fertilizer product should I use?

LOTS of choices-you should know your release characteristics (e.g. quick vs. slow)

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Fertilizer Categories/Classifications

Quick release: readily available, water-soluble	Slow release: controlled release, water-insoluble
Urea Ammonium sulfate Potassium nitrate Ammonium nitrate	Coated products: sulfur coated urea, polymer coated urea Synthetic slow release: methylene urea, urea formaldehyde, others Natural organics/biosolids: poultry manure, Milorganite, many others
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid greening and growth response • Release/availability independent of temperature • Generally less expensive • Higher chance for leaf "burn"/injury • Short residual response • Higher chance of leaching loss at high application rates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slow greening response • Controlled release/feeding with longer residual greening and growth response • Low chance for leaf "burn"/injury even at relatively high application rates • Reduced chance for nutrient leaching • Higher cost per unit nitrogen (lower % N)

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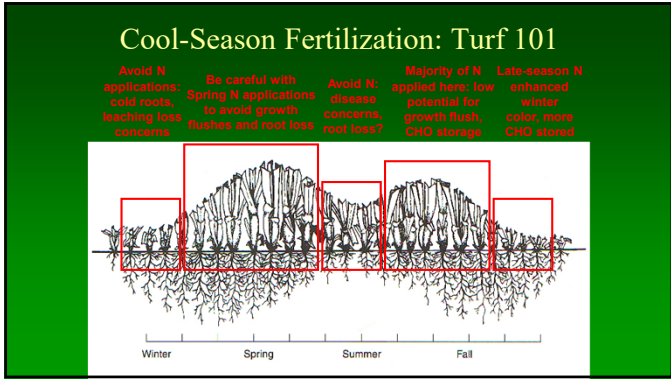
Generalized Seasonal Growth Curves

Warm-season grasses

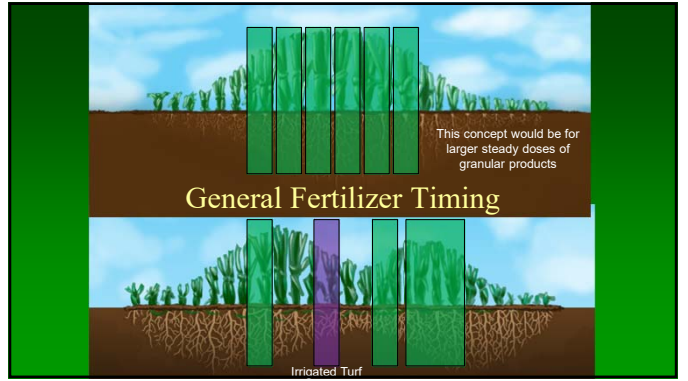
Cool-season grasses

Key point: one should only apply nutrients to actively growing turf

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Important Turf Feeding Terms

- Liquid feeding
- “Fluid” fertilizers...
- Spoon feeding
 - Low frequent, rates
 - Controlled growth
- Foliar feeding

Lawn care has been “liquid feeding” lawns for decades

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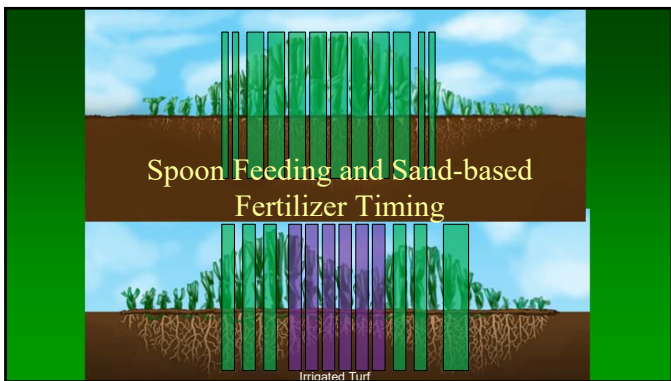
Note: Spoonfeeding “can” be done with granular products but requires specific fertilizer products with a low SGN

THE LATEST EVOLUTION OF THE CONTEC DG PRODUCT LINE

EASY TO SPREAD. EASY TO SEE.

DG = dispersing granule

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Routine Wear

Does a one size fits all strategy apply to this or do site specific tailored programs make sense?

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Final Thoughts/Considerations

- Don't guess soil test!
- What's your goal? and **WTF?**
 - Field **safety** - Maintain seasonal shoot density (green cover)
 - Sustained, steady vigor (recovery-divots etc.)
 - Green color? (aesthetics)
 - One size fits all?
 - Granular vs. liquid (quick versus slow?)
- **WTF? = What's your focus?** It depends!

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