

## Superintendent Sees REAL Results Using REV



**Bill Lewis, Superintendent**

Three years ago, Bill Lewis, a veteran golf course superintendent, contractor and builder, started a project that has developed into an unwavering passion for a new 100% organic product called REV. Initially using a 3.5 oz. per 1,000 mix, he noticed healthier turf and a greater root mass within a month. So he tried 6 oz. per 1,000 and saw an even better improvement in his turf. Now he was hooked - spending the summer tinkering with different rates until he very happily settled on formulas that resulted in a beautifully lush 18-hole course.

With such great results in year one, Lewis became intrigued with what else he could do with REV. Would REV, for example, improve the efficacy of his tried and true fertilizers and fungicides? So, his club bought a 1,000 gallon mix tank and began mixing it in with water soluble granulars like urea and ammonium, manganese and ferrous sulfates. This time, the results were even more startling – incredibly healthy turf using only **one-half** of the recommended rate for fertilizers.

Experimenting with granular fertilizer, Lewis did an application non-slow release and three days later followed with an application of REV. Not only was growth flush controlled but now he could go 21 to 30 days between applications instead of the usual eight to 10 days.

With his formula down pat, Lewis began adding up his savings. They were far greater than he had realized. Without REV, his normal applications of fertilizer and fungicides would cost ten times more and last for only a third of the time of the REV. The result was that last year, Lewis was able to reduce his costs for fertilizer by 40-50% and his fungicide expense by 60%.

Lewis got so interested in knowing more about REV, he set up a meeting with Dr. Deying Li Department of Plant Science at North Dakota State University to compare notes. Li and co-worker Dr. Yang Gao studied the efficacy of foliar applied liquid fertilizer mixed with REV on creeping bentgrass.

Their work, summarized below, exactly matched what Lewis had found in the field:

- Color is retained longer
- Less initial surge in clipping yield
- Increased root density and less shoot weight
- Better heat stress tolerance
- Over fertilized plots had less burning
- Overall turf quality was better

Lewis also discovered REV has other qualities beyond what's been tested. "There's something in REV that suppresses disease," says Lewis. "Last winter, as part of my winter prep I did half the recommended rate of fungicide with REV. It was a really long, cold winter. But when Spring came, I had no snow mold whatsoever. Most L93 courses in the state were practically wiped out from winter desiccation, snow mold and ice damage. My greens came through in perfect shape because of REV. I did have to reseed my fairways that were killed due to ice damage. I used REV for that too and you guessed it, fast growing seedlings with great root mass in a fraction of the time."

"Another intriguing thing is that REV appears to be a photosynthesis enhancer," he continues. "Most turf goes off color on a cloudy day and remains that way for a while even when the sun's been out for a while. With REV, the minute the sun comes out, you can literally watch your turf turn green. It's incredible to see."

This year Lewis has some new ideas to play with - like maybe no fungicides at all. "I can't wait to test REV this year," he says. "We still don't know everything this product can do but I do know one thing for sure, there is no sprayer that leaves without REV in the tank and no chemical that is applied without REV."



Bill's spray tech missed a spot on his green showing the difference in a REV treatment to none. This was taken about 4 hours after application.

*Written by Marlena Cannon June 17, 2013*