JULY NEWSLETTER

W.P. Greens Standing Committee

SOIL ANALYSIS

Soil testing is a basic requirement of good turfgrass management. The results of the testing will provide, among other things, the pH of your soil, the relative levels of nutrients and the existence of soluble salts. These will in turn determine what fertilisers should be used, what nutrients are available and what measures should be taken during renovation.

Many of us make use of the facilities at Elsenburg Agricutural College. The cost of analysis is R135 per green, a modest amount when one considers the importance of this analysis. The contact person at Elsenburg is Raynette Vergotine who can be contacted at 021 8085291.

To get to Elsenburg, take the N1 until you reach the Klapmuts turn off, then turn right onto the R44. Just before Kanonkop on the left, turn right down a narrow tar road until you pass the first set of buildings. Register at Security on the right, then continue under the pedestrian walkway and park. The lab is on your right where you can register your samples.

We recommend that you take between 5 and 8 samples per green. While some of us take a core from each corner plus one in the middle of the green, one should also include a core or cores from those sections of the green where the grass may be struggling.

These cores are placed in a marked bag (A Green, B Green etc) with separate bags per green.

Once the analysis has been received from Elsenburg, we strongly recommend that you send these on to Dr Gavin Cooper for interpretation. Dr Cooper retired from Elsenburg as Head of Soil Sciences. He is also a bowler, so understands the GKPs specific needs. The Elsenburg report can be emailed to Dr Cooper at gavron@telkomsa.net For about R100, Dr Cooper will interpret the results and provide you with a recommended fertiliser programme. Those of us who use him, can recommend him most highly.

LEVELS

We are halfway through the evaluation of the greens in our district. One of our greatest disappointments to date is that so few Clubs have been able to supply us with updated levels according to the Cubitt format. We had thought that the purchase of Dumpys by WPBA, together with the provision of the very simple but effective Cubitt Programme, would make this exercise relatively easy. This has not proved to be the case.

If you have access to a Club member or local Land Surveyor who might help you out, please ensure that he follows the Cubitt programme (2m intervals etc). If you have mislaid the programme, which was sent out to all the Clubs, contact Bill McCarthy.

If you need our assistance, contact us and we will visit you and help to set you up.

Remember, until we have the Cubitt score, your Club cannot qualify for a rating.