

MARCH 2022 NEWSLETTER

W.P. Greens Standing Committee

1. All Cape Tournament

Seventeen Clubs have offered to host the All Cape Tournament which starts on Sunday 3 April. We would like to thank in advance all those Greenkeepers and their staff who have been working so hard to get their greens in good shape for the event. We hope all your efforts will be appreciated by those who play on your greens during the week.

2. Preparing the greens:

According to the schedule of games to be held on your greens, you may be having to mow the greens in the morning prior to the start of the bowls. This is just a reminder that we are beginning to experience heavy dew in some areas. Be aware of the dangers of mowing the greens in these damp early morning conditions.

3. The Merado:

Once the All Cape and most of the W P competitions are over, you may wish to compensate for the heavy traffic on your greens by aerating the turf. Don't forget that the Merado corer is available for hire. Please contact Terry Drew (0837634007) or Bill McCarthy (0837117380) to arrange for its collection.

4. Kerb:

Unfortunately the response to our buying KERB in bulk and distributing to Clubs was insufficient to carry out the exercise. If you're reluctant to use Lawntyl, although a number of GKPs have had much success with the product, we suggest you talk to your regular chemicals supplier about Simanex.

5. Level 1 Greenkeeping Course:

We are planning to run this course in May this year. A provisional date of 16 May has been suggested. This course will be open to both GKPs and their assistants. We will confirm the date and the venue in the next few weeks.

6. Groomer and verticutter blades:

A bowler at one of our Clubs has been providing Clubs in the Western Province and Boland with verticutter and groomer blades at R39 and R48 respectively. If you need his contact details, please contact me at 0732671751 or thepworth@mweb.co.za

7. Soil analysis:

The value of having your soil tested regularly cannot be underestimated. A Club which was battling to sustain a healthy grass cover, with very shallow root growth, eventually sent soil samples off to the laboratory for testing. The results showed pH readings of 4.3 and 4.7. It is generally accepted that the best growing conditions take place when the pH is between 6 and neutral.

The Club has responded to the soil report by applying lime to raise the pH and adjusted their fertiliser programme.

We would urge you to send off soil samples to your local laboratory and then have the results interpreted by someone like Dr Gavin Cooper. It really is worthwhile.

8. Fertilisers:

Following on from the paragraph above, are you confident that you are using the appropriate fertiliser(s) for your soil? For a number of reasons, the chemical composition of the soil can change over a relatively short period. So, what has worked in the past, may not be suitable right now.

And a bit of bad news. A report in Die Burger warns of increasing fertiliser prices. Some have estimated the increase at around 35%!