

Dunfermline Golf Club

4th Green Soil Analysis and Recommendations

Result back from ETL about the soil test of the 4th green, and attach it here as a pdf. This shows several things:

The green is becoming quite acidic, at pH 5.2, and attribute this to the use of sulphate of iron against the moss, as this is an acidifying material. Also, this is shown up by the very high iron levels.

Additionally, the Calcium levels are very low, and the analysis is saying that this isn't important for grass. This will be a general observation almost certainly for agricultural pasture, but there are many in turf management who would disagree with this!

Recommendation:

Increase the Calcium levels as it is an essential element and for it to be so low isn't helpful.

So, propose that we take a different approach to managing the moss and grass. As I explained in the report, moss is more as a symptom than a specific problem in itself and need to get the grass to be more competitive and robust in order to compete with the moss.

Suggest the following:

When aerating this green try to incorporate these two products into the aeration holes and into the soil profile:

Biosorb - available from Aitkens and is intended to improve water and nutrient retention, addressing the low CEC value on this report.

Calcified seaweed meal - a horticulture product but one which I have seen used successfully in turf in the past. It will gently raise the pH and calcium levels within the soil.

One potential consequence is that it will increase disease pressure as it lifts the pH, so suggest using it initially at a low application rate and carefully watching and monitoring for disease and treat if necessary.

By my calculation and at an application rate of 30g/m² a 25kg bag of this would do the 1st and 4th greens. Again, start low with this and monitor the response.

Adopting a different approach to the moss in the 1st and 4th requires a change of practice. If we stick with the 'sulphate of iron and scarifying' approach it will continue to acidify these areas and potentially weaken an already weak turf with the scarifying.

Ongoing use of the Terralift fertilisers and wetting agents will also support this approach.

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