

January 2008



KEN'S KORNER

G R E A T E B A Y C O U N T Y C L U B

THE OCEAN-GRO STORY

During January, we will be applying to the golf course an organic fertilizer referred to as Ocean-Gro. This is a program that we have done each year since I have been the superintendent here. This program benefits the course in many ways - it provides nitrogen organically from a sustainable, earth friendly source.

Ocean- Gro is produced by the Ocean County MUA from a variety of organic waste materials that are combined, composted, digested, and sterilized, and lastly, "prilled" for use as a spread-able fertilizer product.

The benefits of this type of fertilizer on soils and plants are many. Ocean- Gro supplies to the plant very slowly available source of nitrogen that feeds the turf over years, rather than weeks,



which is the norm for most synthetic fertilizers. Ocean-Gro is insoluble, which means it is not broken down to plant usable nitrogen by water. Rather, it must be broken down by soil microbes instead. The advantage here is that it also "feeds the soil," and cannot be leached out where it becomes unavailable and could contaminate non-target areas. Ocean-Gro, being made from organic sources, is a sustainable, "green" product, whereas synthetic fertilizers require the burning of large amounts of fossil fuels to produce nitrogen. That uses up unsustainable resources, and

contributes to greenhouse gases!

Since I have been here, I have been committed to reducing the amount of nitrogen derived from synthetic fertilizers to less than 50% of our total nitrogen requirement. Using Ocean – Gro, and other organic nitrogen sources, I had reached this goal, and have even exceeded it!

Soon you will again be seeing small black prills of Ocean-Gro throughout the course. Please let them remind you that our staff is committed to finding sustainable, earth-friendly ways to care for our course!

Thanks for your interest!

Kenneth B. Thompson
Golf Course Superintendent, Greate Bay CC

It's always a Greate day at Greate Bay!