

## SOIL TEST INFORMATION SHEET NO. T-600

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### Golf Greens - Bermuda

1. If soil tests indicate low or very low levels of phosphorus (P) and/or potassium (K), apply in split applications during active growth in April, June, and August, preferably during or after light sand topdressing and irrigation to aid incorporation.
2. Fertility programs must be adjusted based on rootzone construction:
  - Sand-Based (USGA-style) Greens: These have low nutrient-holding capacity and high leaching potential. Use light, frequent applications of soluble or slow-release fertilizers. Micronutrients and K may require more frequent inputs.
  - Push-Up (Native Soil) Greens: These soils are better at retaining nutrients but can be prone to nutrient buildup. Monitor for excessive P or salt accumulation.
3. Nitrogen (N) Fertility:

Apply no more than 0.75 lb. N per 1,000 ft<sup>2</sup> every 7 to 14 days during peak summer growth (June–August). Standard N fertilization rates are 0.5 to 1.0 lb. N per 1,000 ft<sup>2</sup> every 4 weeks, using soluble nitrogen sources. Begin reducing nitrogen inputs in early (North Louisiana) to late (South Louisiana) September, based on growth potential dictated by weather patterns that vary year to year. In warmer years where heat lingers longer into fall, later applications may be warranted.
4. During establishment or recovery, apply higher N rates to build turf density. Once a full stand is achieved, reduce fertility to maintenance levels to sustain health and playability.
5. When using slow- or controlled-release products, extend intervals between applications based on product longevity. Always adjust rates according to temperature and clipping yield.
6. If soil pH is low and magnesium (Mg) is also deficient, apply dolomitic lime. Do not apply lime if soil pH is already adequate or high.
7. If soil tests indicate low Mg and pH is medium or high, apply K-Mg sulfate (e.g., K-Mag). A typical application of 9 lbs. per 1,000 ft<sup>2</sup> supplies approximately 2 lbs. K<sub>2</sub>O and 1.8 lb. Mg. Alternatively, if potassium is adequate, apply magnesium sulfate (epsom salt) at 4–5 lbs. per 1,000 ft<sup>2</sup>. Make sure to water products in with irrigation or apply before rainfall to avoid foliar burn.
8. If calcium is low and soil pH is medium or high, apply 35 to 45 lbs. of gypsum per 1,000 ft<sup>2</sup> to increase calcium without affecting pH.
9. Turf-specific blends with a higher nitrogen, lower (to no) phosphorus, and moderate potassium ratio (e.g., 4-1-2 or 3-1-2) can be used to supply the specified nutrient.
10. Monitor iron (Fe), manganese (Mn), zinc (Zn), and sulfur (S) levels, especially in sand-based greens or high-pH soils. Apply micronutrients as needed in chelated or sulfate forms to maintain color and turf function.
11. Extension Support:

For help interpreting your soil report and developing a custom fertilization plan, contact your LSU AgCenter county agent. The agent also receives a copy of your report for local office records and can assist with site-specific recommendations.