



From the Golf Course: A CASE STUDY



“ THE CRYSTAL GREEN® FAIRWAY HAD A DARKER, BLUER COLOR, LIKE A PERENNIAL RYE, LIKELY FROM THE MAGNESIUM AND PHOSPHORUS WORKING TOGETHER. ”

- ROB LOMELI
Superintendent Ridge Creek Dinuba Golf Club

Ridge Creek Dinuba Golf Club Finds Success With Root-Activated™ Continuous Release Fertilizer

Nestled in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley, 30 miles southeast of Fresno, is the growing community of Dinuba, California. With the recent expansion of its water treatment facility, the City of Dinuba decided to build a par-72, upscale daily-fee golf course and irrigate it with the reclaimed water. Designed by architect John Fought, the natural grasses and bunkers of Ridge Creek Dinuba Golf Club create a heathland style experience, similar to the classics of England.

Ridge Creek is managed by Kemper Sports, and superintendent Rob Lomeli has been on board since initial grow-in. Greens were established with Dominant Extreme, and tees, fairways and roughs with TifSport™ bermudagrass. The course opened in July of 2008.

Due to economic constraints, the fertility program for 2009, 2010 and 2011 consisted solely of straight urea applied at a rate of 1 lb./1000 sq. ft. three times a year in June, August and September.

Early in 2012, distributor Wilbur-Ellis proposed a dedicated season-long, course-wide product demonstration program, the first of its kind in California, called, “The Experience at Ridge Creek.”

Working in partnership with leading industry brands, including fertilizer, chemistry, seed and mowing equipment, the course was divided into segments for supervised product testing and demonstration throughout 2012. The “experience” would culminate with an invitation to California’s golf course superintendents, general managers and golf professionals to tour the course and learn about the products and their performance in late September.

“THE PHOSPHORUS IN CRYSTAL GREEN HAS GIVEN US A BETTER STAND OF TURF FOR BETTER RECOVERY OF TRAFFIC AND A NICE COLOR DIFFERENCE.”

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After three years of using straight urea, Lomeli was excited for the opportunity to try a new fertilizer technology. The 17th hole was dedicated to Crystal Green, a continuous release, Root-Activated™ phosphorus fertilizer, with nitrogen and magnesium, (5-28-0 + 10 Mg).

Unlike conventional water-soluble phosphorus fertilizers, Crystal Green granules use a citrate soluble mode of action activated by organic acid production. As the roots produce citrates, Crystal Green responds with a healthy release of phosphorus, fertilizing turf on demand. As plant demand decreases, nutrient release from Crystal Green is reduced, minimizing excess phosphorus in the soil and lowering the risk of tie-up. Crystal Green provides the nutrients that turf needs all season long.

Lomeli explains, “We put the Crystal Green down in June at 150 lbs. of product per acre, along with our usual application of urea. The 18th hole received straight urea, so it provided a nice side-by-side comparison.” He describes his subsequent observations: “It was really interesting. We definitely saw a color difference. The Crystal Green fairway had a darker, bluer color, like a perennial rye, likely from the magnesium and phosphorus working together.”

Crystal Green is known for promoting strong roots and improving stress recovery. According to Lomeli, “The rough, in general, had been really thin. TifSport doesn’t handle traffic very well, and it has been a challenge to get the rough to establish, especially in heavy traffic areas. This year, with Crystal Green, we had an improved stand of rough, especially where the carts were going on and off the path.”

Speaking of the exercise overall, Lomeli says, “The fun part for me is the opportunity to study all the results. I feel that the phosphorus in Crystal Green has given us a better stand of turf for better recovery of traffic and a nice color difference.”



Ostara Nutrient Division

E info@crystalgreen.com | T 604 408 6697
crystalgreen.com

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