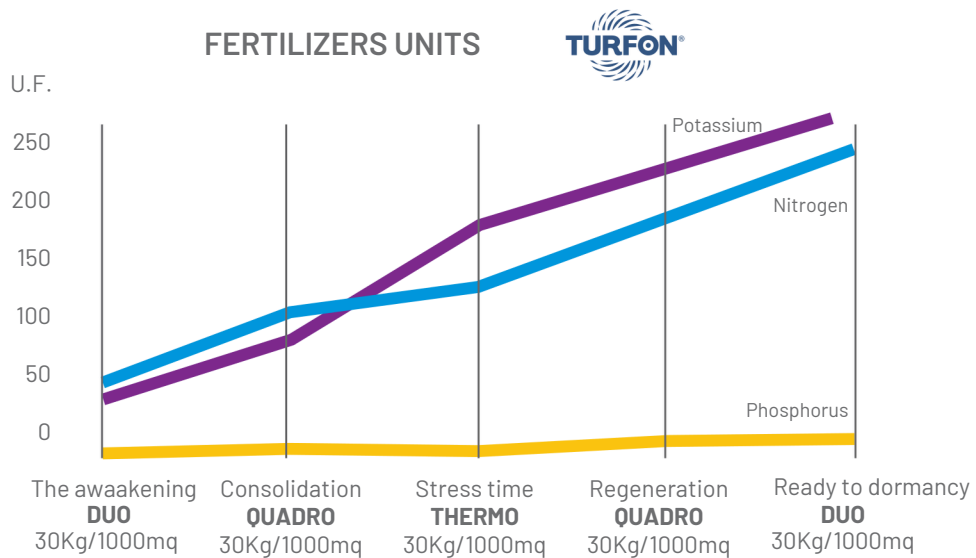


# THE FERTILIZER PLAN



## Greener, healthier turf



**TOTAL ANNUAL FERTILIZER APPLICATION: 150 kg/1000 m<sup>2</sup>**

# FERTILIZERS

## PHASE 01 | JANUARY / MARCH SPRING GREEN-UP

In this phase, with daylight and temperatures increasing quickly and inexorably, our grass requires nutrients of top quality and ready assimilation: the main target is to hook the full restoration of the metabolic functions to the better weather conditions as soon as possible.

Only by spreading the right fertilizer made of correct elements can we help this process of "awakening", ensuring the proper green-up and quality excellence of our turf from the first moments of the season.

A quick re-start is also crucial as it guarantees a fast recovery after the winter stress, as well as helping to block the entrance for the spring's weeds.

We cannot underestimate another important issue, which can be successfully faced through proper nutrition: turf diseases mainly develop by taking advantage of the physiologically critical phase endured by our plants; the best prevention is consequently the

distribution of fertilizers specially designed for their reinforcement.

In either case (pests or pathogens), the containment of the potential risk equates to limiting or canceling any herbicide and fungicide treatments, to the benefit of the environment, management costs and the final customer satisfaction.

## PHASE 02 | MARCH / MAY CONSOLIDATION

The spring months are the months of vegetative growth. The weather is the best one could ask for: ensured rainfall, ideal medium temperature and the sunshine rising gradually to the annual peak of duration and intensity. It is the easiest time to deal with, from the point of view of maintenance.

The favorable conditions, however, may be a double-edged sword: this is in fact the time of the consolidation of our turf. A consolidation which will shape, for better or for worse, morphological and metabolic characteristics that will challenge the seasons to come. The supply of nutrients becomes crucial, avoiding uncontrolled growth, focusing mostly on the health's balance and correct size of the plant.

Soil or leaf analysis will allow us to make up for any deficiencies, elaborating a specific fertilizer plan.

In the absence of real imbalances, it is advisable to distribute half of the phosphorus amount scheduled for the whole year.

## PHASE 03 | MAY / AUGUST STRESS TIME

May opens the most risky and stressful time for our cool-season turf. In an effort to counteract the high transpiration induced by the high temperatures and the associated risk of drying, the grass plants regulate their water balance through the cyclical closure of the stomatal pores, inevitably slowing photosynthesis and growth, as well as their defense capabilities.

Once we add the necessary irrigation, we'll find ourselves providing one of the two useful conditions to the fungi attack (i.e. moisture on the ground, while the other is of course the hot temperature), making summer months the most critical period in the whole year.

Accordingly, the fertilizer plan will be higher in potassium, an element which positively affects the suction ability by adjusting the stomatal dynamism and root water potential, and totally eliminating readily soluble nitrogen (potential of "lighter" of fungal attacks) and the phosphorus, that encourages the rooting of annual and perennial weeds.

## PHASE 04 | AUGUST / OCTOBER REGENERATION

At the end of the summer-stress, it is time to "clean" the turf as well as the time for its regeneration: the first operation will eliminate the thatch, result of leaf senescence, while the second will take advantage of the now favorable climate, compensating the natural loss of grass-cover by selected seeding.

The temperatures and the autumn rainfall will help our turf to quickly restore its beauty, allowing even the young seedlings to mature before winter dormancy. In this season the fertilizer plan is scheduled by the same kind of material distributed in spring,

meeting the weather conditions and also the need to support the rooting of the sown (this is why we supply the second half of the year's planned amount of phosphorus). The maintenance will contain excessive turf growth, keeping the right mowing height and avoiding the use of unbalanced fertilizers.

## PHASE 05 | OCTOBER / DECEMBER READY TO DORMANCY

Though conversely, the winter's coming means similar evapotranspiration and temperature peaks to the ones during the summer, with equally stressful effects.

To some extent, the solution may be the same as the one adopted before the hot season, as also in this case the potassium element proves to be the only helpful element to overcome the coldest time.

But beware: on the contrary of the summer period, we cannot forget to ensure the accumulation of nutritional reserves to the older turf's roots and the correct supply of nitrogen to the young seedlings (born from the previous late-summer regeneration) to achieve a correct maturation.

The concept of "correct nitrogen supply" should follow the slow fall in temperatures and daylight hours useful for photosynthesis, while approaching the months of December and January; that is why we suggest to copy the nutritional scheme that we propose, for opposite reasons, at "the awakening" time, in the beginning of the year.