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1 What is your company's primary business? (check ONLY ONE)

- F Sports Complex G Athletic Field and/or Park Architect/Designer
T School, College or University P Park
H Other (please specify) _____

2 Which of the following best describes your title? (check ONLY ONE)

- A EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATOR — President, Owner, Partner, Director, General Manager, Chairman of the Board, Purchasing Agent, Athletic Director
B MANAGER/SUPERINTENDENT — Superintendent, Landscape/Ground Maintenance Manager, Foreman, Supervisor
C GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL — Government Commissioner, Agent, Other Government Official
D SPECIALIST — Architect, Designer, Consultant, Agronomist, Horticulturist, Certified Specialist
F COACH E Other (please specify) _____

3 Do you have the authority to buy, specify or recommend products and/or services for your business or organization?

Y Yes N No

4 Yearly operating expenditures (excluding salaries)

- F Over \$1 million C \$50,001 - \$100,000
E \$500,001 - \$1 million B \$25,001 - \$50,000
D \$100,001 - \$500,000 A \$25,000 and under

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That's what slow- and controlled-release fertilizers do. When you feed grass steadily and constantly—as the roots need it—the fertilizer doesn't have a chance to get lost."

By gradually delivering nitrogen and other nutrients to correspond to plants' uptake, slow- and controlled-release fertilizers can virtually eliminate nutrient loss. Steady feeding minimizes surge growth and reduces the number of fertilizer applications needed during a season.

The advantages and benefits of EEFs are becoming an important part of the new legislative trends. As industry experts, scientists, stakeholders and policy makers look for ways to alleviate nitrogen runoff, EEFs are tested alternatives that can be a significant part of the solution.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Fertilizer advocates and industry leaders have adopted the "4R Nutrient Stewardship," a science-based approach to best management practices. The 4R system calls for the Right Product to be applied at the Right Rate, Right Time and Right Place. When those criteria are met, plants should thrive and fertilizer should stay where it's intended to be.

"Proper use of plant nutrients can actually improve water quality, while banning them could have the opposite effect," said Blaylock. "Properly fertilized plants are healthier, so they're better able to utilize the nutrients in the soil and protect the soil from degradation. Unhealthy plants

have poor root systems and stimulate less biological activity in the soil. They don't use nutrients efficiently, which leads to greater probability of nutrient and soil loss."

"People are accepting the idea of EEFs, and we continue to learn how to better use these tools," Blaylock said. "The advances in technology are amazing in terms of what we can do to control fertilizer release and minimize pollution," added Fox. "It's exciting to realize we have the knowledge and abilities to do this right." ■

Rob Stevenson is a writer for Canyon Communications, Mesa, AZ. Reprinted with permission from the Turfgrass Producers International's Turf News.