

CASE STUDY

June 2018

GOLF COURSE

The Ridge at Castle Pines, Castle Pines North, CO

CONTACT

Chris Hedberg, Superintendent

PRODUCT USED

UMAXX Stabilized Nitrogen Fertilizer



CASE STUDY PROFILE

CHALLENGE

Superintendent Chris Hedberg wanted to provide top-notch playing conditions so that The Ridge, a public course on a tight budget, could effectively compete with members-only courses in the Denver area.

SOLUTION

UMAXX stabilized nitrogen fertilizer

RESULTS

By applying UMAXX just three or four times per year, Hedberg and his crew are able to maintain The Ridge's sustainable focus while helping its turf look better than ever—all on a limited budget.



Sustainable Colorado Golf Course Applies UMAXX® to Maintain Upscale Conditions on a Budget

The Ridge at Castle Pines, a Troon® course south of Denver, offers visitors a high-end golfing experience that's unique to Colorado's Front Range. The 212-acre, Audubon-certified sanctuary course sits at an elevation of 6,500 feet with vistas and wildlife that few other courses in the area can match.

"Coyotes, bobcats, mountain lions—they're all roaming around, and there's a good chance you'll see a few while you're playing," says Chris Hedberg, superintendent at The Ridge. "You can also get a great view of Pike's Peak and even downtown Denver from a few holes."

Unlike neighboring courses, The Ridge is a daily-fee facility that's open to the public. Although Hedberg and his team must operate within the constraints of a relatively small budget, they work hard to provide the best possible course conditions.

"We still want to provide the same conditions or better than the members-only courses around us," Hedberg says. "We try to do a lot with a little. We have around 10 crew members, two assistants, a mechanic and me—a pretty small group for what we're trying to produce. Whether it's spraying fairways, applying fertilizer or simply making sure our day-to-day operations are running smoothly, each of us needs to pitch in."

"Over the past six years, it's (UMAXX) given us the biggest bang for our buck, and its performance has even allowed us to reduce the number of fertilizer applications we make each season."



As busy as they are, Hedberg and his staff put a strong emphasis on environmental responsibility. They've decreased The Ridge's irrigated acres over the past few seasons by turning seven acres into native grass. On the 80 acres that are irrigated, they use reclaimed water provided by a facility in nearby Castle Rock, CO. They also repurpose any trees that need to be cut down or trimmed, creating benches and mulch that can be used throughout the course.

That same sustainable focus extends to the fertilizer that Hedberg's team applies throughout the course—UMAXX stabilized nitrogen fertilizer from Koch Turf & Ornamental. A urea-based product with a 46-0-0 analysis and dual inhibitor technology, UMAXX protects against all three forms of nitrogen loss: leaching, denitrification and volatilization. It's a completely soluble granular product that's equally effective whether it's sprayed or spread.

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“Before I came to The Ridge, I was an assistant superintendent at another course,” Hedberg says. “We used UMAXX at that course, so I was familiar with it and knew it could provide excellent results. Over the past six years, it's given us the biggest bang for our buck, and its performance has even allowed us to reduce the number of fertilizer applications we make each season.”

Hedberg and his crew apply UMAXX as a granular, walk-spreading the fertilizer around tees, green surrounds, bunkers and bunker fingers. Then, they apply it to larger areas of the

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course with a tractor and tow-behind spreader. It's a time-consuming process, which makes the fact that they can apply UMAXX just a few times a year even more beneficial.

“We usually make three applications, maybe four depending on the weather, and that will get us through a full season,” Hedberg explains. “When three guys can spend a day applying fertilizer and you can get two to three months of performance out of it, that's a huge timesaver, rather than having to go out once a month or every six weeks.”

Perhaps even more importantly, The Ridge's turf looks better than ever. A few years ago, one of Troon's agronomists tested the course's soil and asked Hedberg what he was applying to the turf.

“I told them ‘Just UMAXX,’” he said. “Simply putting down the nitrogen we need when we need it has produced great results for us. We don't have to deplete our already limited budget by purchasing a lot of other products. The agronomist was blown away when he heard what our course budget was and saw how great our course looked.

“Overall, not having to apply fertilizer every month saves us time and money, because we don't have to pay for fuel and labor. Last year, our weather conditions were such that we were able to stretch our time between UMAXX applications to almost 12 weeks. UMAXX's sustainability and performance are great, and we're able to minimize the amount of fertilizer we apply.”