Changes in use and application of Potassium

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Why reduce potassium on golf course turf?

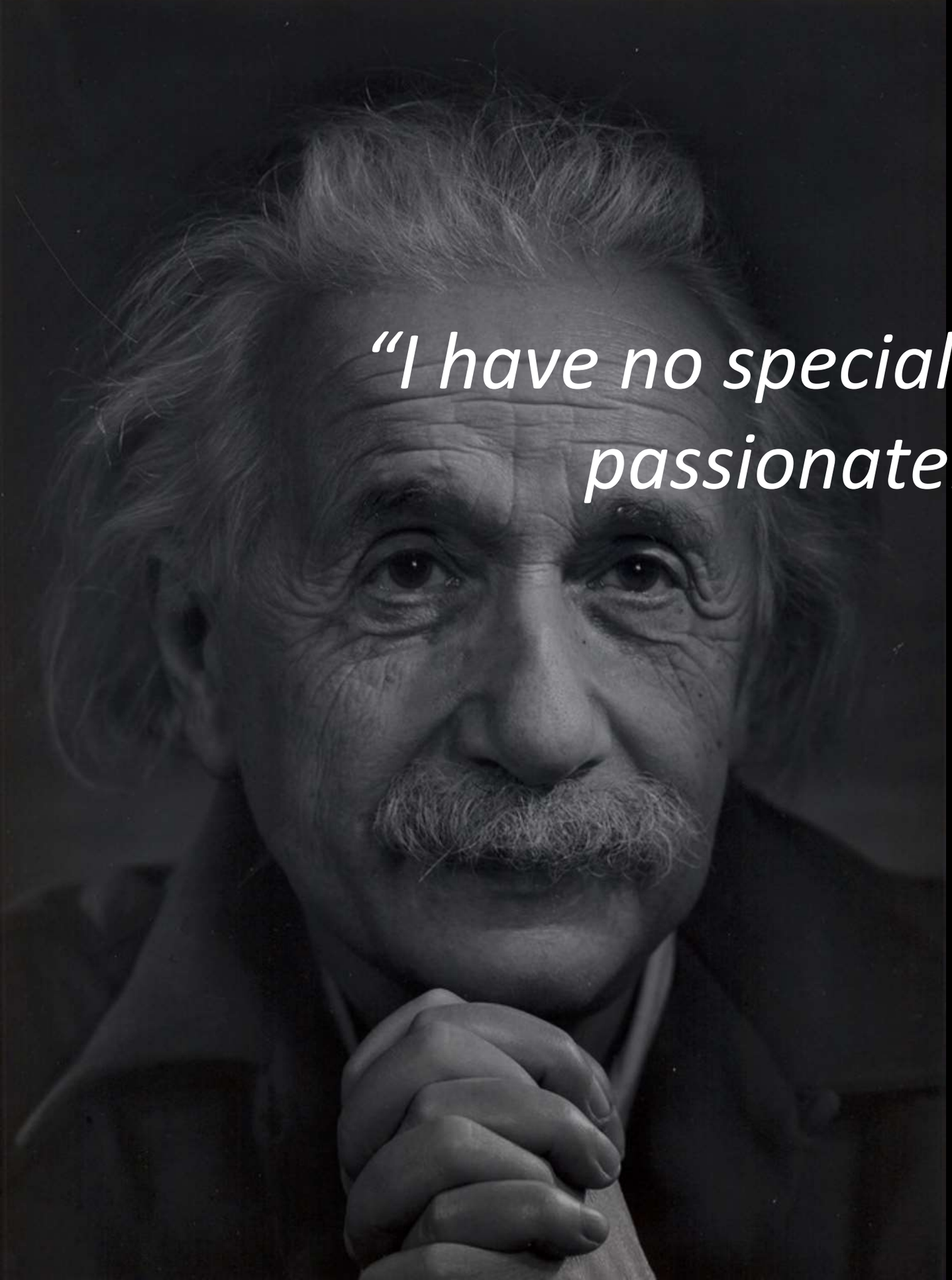
- Reduce snow mold pressure
- Use less product
- Spend less time applying unnecessary product

What I used to do:

- Apply too much Potassium
- Followed soil test “recommendations” to replace and keep potassium at “recommended” levels
- Attempt to apply an N:K ratio of 1:2 through:
  - Soluble apps of 1:1
  - Granular apps using sulfate of potash applied at 1 #/K/M following each 1”+ rainfall
- Wonder if I was wasting product

What made me change:

- I was curious



“I have no special talent. I am only passionately curious.”

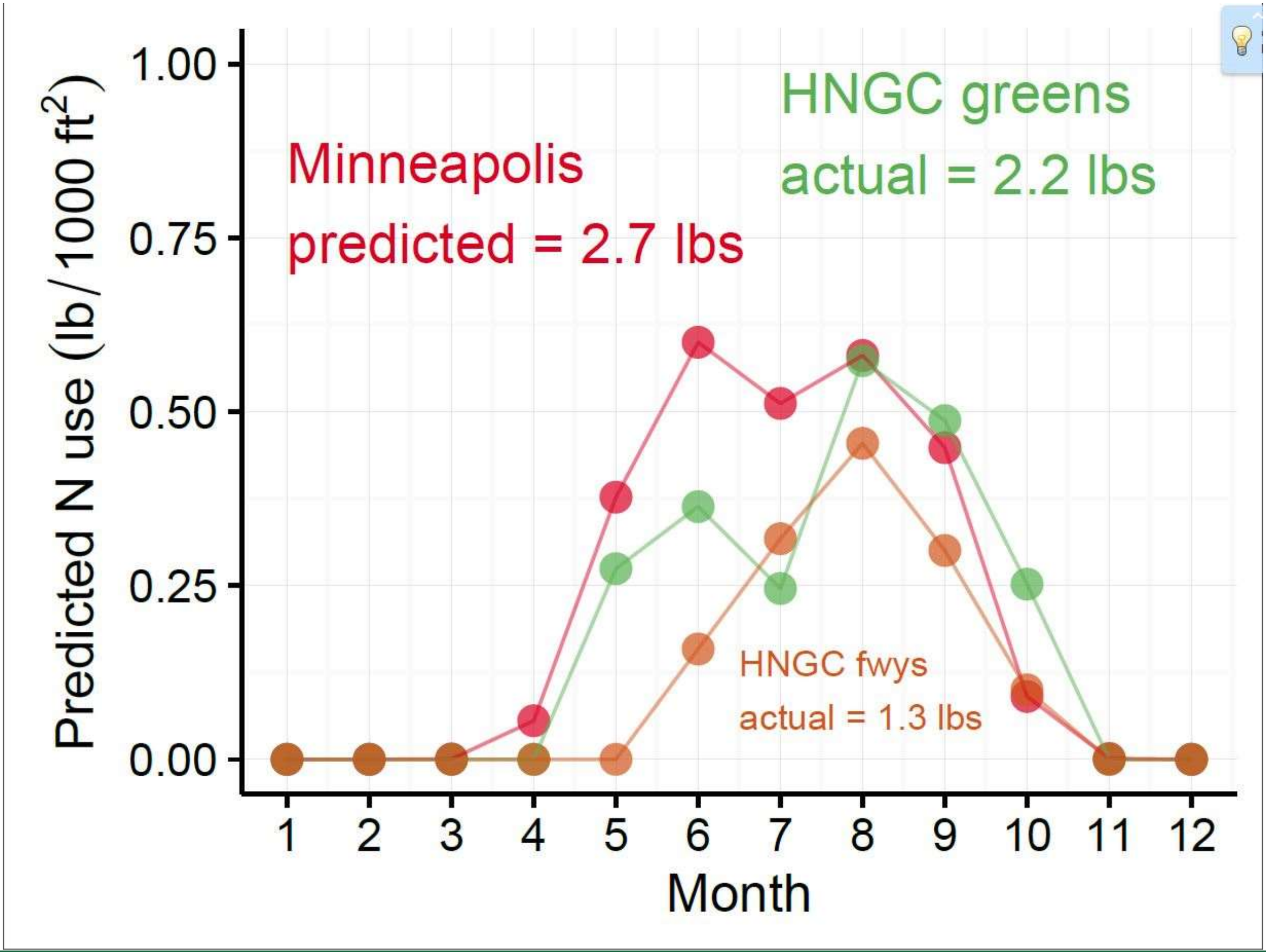
–Albert Einstein

What made me change:

- I was curious
- I looked for new information about potassium and golf course turf
- I read articles and research by Doug Soldat, Frank Rossi and Micah Woods
- I learned about MLSN and had many conversations with Micah
- I realized I was more than likely applying too much potassium

What I do now:

- Putting Surfaces:
  - Apply an N:K ratio or 1:1, using soluble N and K
  - Only apply K from June 15th, until around Sept 15th
- I don’t think about K
  - All N this past season was applied in soluble form, no K was added


Predicted N use (lb/1000 ft²)
1.00
0.75
0.50
0.25
0.00
Minneapolis
predicted = 2.7 lbs
HNGC greens
actual = 2.2 lbs
HNGC fwys
actual = 1.3 lbs
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
Month

2016 Putting Surface K:

- June: 0.36 #s N-0.2 #s K
- July: 0.25 #s N-0.2 #s K
- August: 0.57 #s N-0.2 #s K
- Sept: 0.5 #s N-0.1 #s K

Bottom Line:

- No reduction in surface quality or performance
- Less product used
- Less time spent applying unnecessary product