

Feed the soil and the turf can look after itself

Case study Pratten Park

Background

Turf wickets at Pratten Park have been unresponsive to all cultural treatment in 2008. Both existing turf and new washed turf failed to thrive right through the 2008 season. Pratten Park was not alone, during what was a difficult season for cricket turfs. Sydney University was engaged to examine the problem.

Results

Investigations found an abundance of soil born fungal pathogens. The primary pathogen was identified from root tissue culture, as summer active fusarium. While the soil contained abundant spores, fungicidal treatment failed, seemingly due to the low permeability of the clay wicket soil.

Recommendations

The most practical solution identified was to inoculate the soil with Trichoderma sp. Fungi, a natural antagonist to fusarium. The following program is designed to develop healthy soil, to optimise cricket turf growth and development.

- ✓ Feed turf with low salt, slow release fertiliser,
- ✓ Enrich soil with calcium, to stabilise soil, chemistry and optimise Ca:Mg ratio.
- ✓ Inoculate cricket soil with beneficial Trichoderma sp. Fungi.



Trich-a-soil

Beneficial soil microbes known to be antagonistic to fusarium and other turf disease. Soil borne diseases are difficult to control in clay soils due to low permeability. Applied monthly, trichoderma will penetrate and occupy soil to stop disease activity.



Nutrisorb

Chelated calcium (9%) with Nitrogen (6%), carbon and naturally derived plant substances. Rinse into soil to feed soil microbes and simultaneously build soil calcium levels. Rate is dependant on soil type and soil chemistry - consult your Living Turf representative.



Vitalise

Enhance root development with this blend of naturally derived plant substances. Apply at 2L per 1,000sqm per month as a foliar to actively growing turf (compatible tank mix with liquid fertiliser).



Sierraform GT

Solid nutritional package in a slow release form with a very low salt index. Selection of analyses feature slow release, fused potassium silicate. Apply at 25kg per 1,000sqm for 4-5 weeks growth response.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Trich-a-soil												
Nutrisorb Ca9												
Vitalise												
Sierraform GT												

Ask us about our range of Cricket Wicket Soil Tests -

- ✓chemistry, ✓strength, ✓clay content, ✓cracking, shrinking and swelling.

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