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Suppress and Control Poa annua

Spring is the time to deploy SHORTstop 200SC to suppress and control wintergrass. SHORTstop's unique mode of action selectively targets winter grass in bent golf greens, slowing its development and allowing bent to dominate the sward.



Wintergrass control with SHORTstop is more about growing healthy bent than desiccating Poa. By using reduced rates in a program fashion, and maintaining targeted nutrition through spring / summer, users can achieve a major turn around in the Poa population of infested greens.

The important aspect of a wintergrass control program in Spring is the inclusion of renovation with the least effect.

At Living Turf we have a combined wealth of experience with TGR and whatever your situation, we can help tailor a strategy for you. To learn more call us or visit www.livingturf.com.

SHORTstop 200SC is available for purchase under APVMA Permit Number 8234 pending full registration.



Treating high P in turf soils

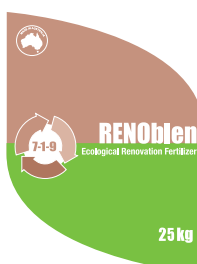
It is often said – and correctly so – that soil tests are only as good as their interpretation. Many turf soil tests show excessive 'P' (phosphorus), even when observation suggests that a starter fertilizer is exactly what is needed.

- ✓ Available P readily combines with iron and / or calcium (iron phosphate and calcium phosphate), rendering it unavailable for plant uptake.
- ✓ Laboratory analysis of P uses an extracting agent to dissolve soil P, and it is questionable how accurately this test can imitates the turf roots ability to do same.
- ✓ Therefore high readings might simply be showing something closer to total P, than available P.
- ✓ Strategy to treat high P should involve treatment as well as prevention.

Treatment of high soil P involves using materials that can dissolve to mine soil bound P, returning it to an available state. Organic acids including humic acids are highly useful for this purpose.

RENOblen 7-1-9 from MATCHplay is formulated with high-grade granular humic acid, in a greens grade granule for excellent distribution. Also containing wetting agent, controlled release N and K and trace elements, RENOblen works longer by recycling bound soil nutrients including P.

To discuss treatment specific to your situation call 0407 100 202.



Welcome

The 2005 cool season has seen an amazing period of growth and development at Living Turf.

We launched SHORTstop 200SC to the turf market – a turf growth regulator (TGR) for suppression and control of wintergrass in bentgrass greens and ryegrass playing fields.

On the cricket scene we dramatically expanded sales of Nutrisorb Ca9, increasing the resilience of turf cricket pitches by addressing fundamental issues of soil chemistry.

Additionally our launch of EQUALise® (soil and water conditioner) has given customers the ability to better manage turf affected by high bicarbonate water from recycled or contaminated water.

On behalf of Greg and Grant, I hope you enjoy this edition of 'A Minute on Your Turf' and trust it will help you prepare for Spring renovation.

Regards,

Rob Cooper





Mason Park Case Study



Above: Before and after pictures of the field

Below: Rob Bourke (Manager Parks and Community Services - Strathfield Council) insisted that irrigation design included run off catchment to help fill irrigation storage tanks at Mason Park.

Since establishment in 2003, Living Turf has forged a close working relationship with various local councils. The Mason Park experience (2005) is a case study that demonstrates the added value our technically trained rep's are able to provide.

Mason Park is a 4-hectare playing field site bordering the Olympic precinct at Homebush. With a desire to re-develop the undulating surface, Strathfield Council had to consider adjacent wetlands as well as underlying acid sulphate soils.



Living Turf was commissioned for a series of works that included;

- ✓ Developing specifications for field re-development and irrigation.
- ✓ Establish approximate cost of works to help the Councils budgeting.
- ✓ Further development of a full tender package for advertisement.
- ✓ Independent input for selection of a contractor for the works.
- ✓ Representing council on site to supervise full scope of works.
- ✓ Attend meetings with stakeholders to overview works.

As consultants for the Mason Park works, Living Turf provided expert information for Council to make informed decisions about turf related aspects of the re-development.

Continued above

On this sensitive project, council was able to minimize consultancy costs and invest in quality materials and skilled contractors - with an excellent outcome.

Consultancy is not core business for us at Living Turf, but it enables us to offer a well-rounded service. Logical advice and quality product selection, adds value to turf product purchases and results in happy customers and solid working relations.

Managing Soils on Recycled Water

Bicarbonates are alkaline salts that react with free calcium to form calcium carbonate – an insoluble precipitate that reduces calcium availability. Irrigation water with high bicarbonate can clog soil pore spaces by changing cation exchange balance, and diminishing soil structure.

Treated effluent and recycled water sources normally contain high bicarbonates. Other water sources such as bores and streams can also contain bicarbonates. But it is when bicarbonates are accompanied by sodium and / or chloride that negative root zone influences compound.

Physical indicators that bicarbonates might be at work are high pH, black layer development, poor root development and generally unthrifty turf. Considering that calcium carbonate (lime) and sand forms a weak mortar mix (concrete), it is easy to understand how high bicarbonate levels can cause even sandy root zone soils to deteriorate dramatically.

EQUALise rapidly dissolves soil calcium and magnesium, returning their availability to turf and to the cation exchange complex, to displace sodium and restore optimum structure.

EQUALise works in hours rather than days. Drenching 20L over 1 hectare, and watering gently into the root zone can treat affected soils. Monthly repeat applications will prevent further degeneration and offset the ongoing effects of poor quality water.

EQUALise is another product development from MATCHplay. Several turf managers are benefiting from its unique mode of activity already. To learn more visit www.livingturf.com or call us on 02 9667 4333.



New additions to our quality MATCHplay products. Please visit www.livingturf.com for product information

