

Turf Solutions

Choosing The Right Nutrition For Turfgrass

Nutritional input for fine turf areas has been one of the hottest topics of discussion for many years. Too much nutrient can create soft lush grass which is susceptible to disease and excess wear. It can also encourage the coarser grass species such as *Poa annua*. It's also worth noting that too much nutrient is wasteful and can harm the environment. The environmental affects of over-fertilizing are becoming an important issue for the turf manager to consider.

However, it must be remembered that too little nutrient is also bad for the health of the overall grass sward. Too little nutrient can produce a weak grass sward, which will encourage weed and moss invasion, and can also encourage certain turf diseases such as Anthracnose.

The difficulty is getting the balance of inputs right. One of the best ways to help the turf manager to achieve this is to use a soil analysis to help ascertain current levels of soil nutrient and to work out which nutrients are low (they are sometimes also far too high). Once it has been decided what to apply, it is then necessary to decide what type of fertilizer to use. There are many fertilizers on the market, however they are not all the same. Look for ones which have been researched and proven.

The turf manager is looking for accurate and efficient fertilizer application, with a high level of control. This means that the grass is always under control. To help the turf manager achieve this aim, Scotts has developed a new range of three Greenmaster liquid fertilizers to complement their high quality granular products.

These advanced, fast-acting products enable users to spray turf with a direct nutrient source when required, ensuring a faster plant response than with granular applications.

The product contains trace elements that are chelated for improved availability, plus vitamins for health and improved stress tolerance. Extremely flexible, Greenmaster can be tank mixed with other products and comes in innovative packaging with an anti-glug mechanism that ensures a smooth flow of liquid.

Scotts will also introduce a new Sierrablen Plus range of granular controlled release fertilizers in the near future. These products feature Scotts unique resin and/or Poly-S coated fertilizer granules which rely on soil temperature as their mechanism of release. This controlled method ensures the product is accurately released to match exactly the turf growth requirements, therefore minimising leaching.

The three new Sierrablen Plus products comprise Spring Starter (24+5+8+2MgO), Active (18+5+18+2MgO) and Stress-Control (15+5+22+5MgO).



growing success