that at a standard application of 35g fertilizer per square yard, at least 10 units of IBDU are required in the product formulation to achieve truly extended turf growth and colour response. The chart Fig. 1 shows the reaction of IBDU as compared with a conventional release fertilizer.

**NEW DEVELOPMENT FOR STA-BRITE**

Sta-Brite, who have just moved from Farnborough into a newly fitted out freehold warehouse and office complex in Basingstoke, are sole UK distributors for Schweizer Fertilizers. This unique range of time-proven formulations is geared to specific turf problems, with golf courses very much in mind.

In all there are 10 granular fertilizers, one to suit every type of sports turf whether in good condition or poor and on every type of soil. Of these, Nitro-green-32, CertoplantGolf, Sport-Green Golf and Turfextra Golf, are microgranulated to under 1 mm and suit the finest turf on golf greens, while the others are fine-granulated to between 1 and 2.5mm for golf tees and fairways.

Schweizer Fertilizers are based on blends of top quality Nitrogen sources, including IBDU and UF for slow release and organics for faster action, plus well balanced P, K and Mg content and essential trace elements.

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**BASF SPECIFIED FOR SAND GREEN CONSTRUCTIONS**

BASF, the German chemical giant, produce a range of slow release fertilizers in the UK under the Floranid label. The Floranid Turf, 20:5:8 with 2% magnesium is specially suitable for the pre-fertilization of sand green constructions and a number of golf course constructors are advising and specifying its use.

A 36 hole complex at Calverton due to open in April has specified the product, as well as 18 holes under construction at the Marlwood Golf Centre, near Bristol and it is being used by Southern Golf with their construction at the new Denham Court golf course, to the north-west of London Airport. As well as the general purpose Floranid NPK 15.9.2, used as an economical turf fertilizer for low intensity areas, there is Floranid NK...
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With demand for their products in which are widely used in the Horticultural, Landscape and Sports Turf industries, the company manufactures a standard range of RBL XYLOGRANIC, but specialises in producing specific formulations, based on the results of soil analysis, to suit the individual greenkeeper's requirements. As all sports turf dressings manufactured by Roffey Brothers Ltd. are screened to 3mm this has enabled greenkeepers to make lighter, more regular applications of dressings containing major nutrients, trace elements and soil conditioners, which are readily assimilated into the turf structure giving more even growth patterns and true surfaces. Five years ago, they introduced RBL XYLOGRANIC fine turf dressing, a unique product which has become an established favourite with many greenkeepers. The combination of three soil conditioning materials, including seaweed, a wide spectrum of trace elements and a sand which is produced to a very tight particle specification, has resulted in a dressing material which helps the greenkeeper combat the severe effects of compaction caused by the pressures of modern, all year round play and maximises the availability of nutrients from applied fertilisers.

As a result of the analyses the specification of RBL XYLOGRANIC will be altered slightly to adjust the relative ratios of the trace elements to increase the proportions of Magnesium and Sulphur.

It has been found that, although many fertiliser manufacturers are including Magnesium in their products, the rates of incorporation are only sufficient to replace that normally lost during normal growth and mowing operations. If soil reserves are seriously depleted, it seems to be more effectively applied in the top dressing, particularly after toning operations.

MELCOURT'S DEDICATED TOP DRESSINGS AND SOIL CONDITIONERS

Choosing the right formula top dressing is a vital factor in grasscare generally, and the golf course is no exception. Melcourt Industries, specialist suppliers of organic landscaping products, have three ready-mixed top dressings, each dedicated to a specific application, which will enable the groundsmen to maintain a firm, fertile and well conditioned surface. HR top dressing is specifically formulated for use in higher rainfall areas, allowing free drainage while providing a good buffer of top quality loam, to encourage grass growth. On the other hand, LR top dressing should be used where water retention is desirable, in lower rainfall areas for example and is a particularly good choice for playing fields and amenity areas. Finally, Melcourt's HT Sports is a high quality top dressing created specifically for golf courses and bowling greens, where a free draining yet thatch resistant surface is required. In each case, a high humate content works together with a high action exchange factor to help the long-lasting release of nutrients and encourage growth.

All three Melcourt top dressings are 100% organic and of a completely consistent formulation. This means the greenkeeping professional can rely on achieving the same firm, fertile and well conditioned surface next time round, without having to put up with unpredictable fluctuations in quality and mix. For the groundsman who wishes to mix his own, Melcourt will supply loam and other ingredients to suit individual requirements. Melcourt also produce soil conditioners, such as Adheart, Super Humus and Composted Garden Bark. Adheart is a high humate concentrate which enhances the texture and structure of the soil by improving drainage and breaking down clays, and is ideal for golf and bowling greens. Its movement through the soil stimulates growth at all levels, particularly the root zone. Super Humus is ideal for giving impoverished soil an instant enriching humus boost, while Composted Garden Bark, processed from conifer bark, will enhance fertility, improve drainage and stimulate healthy root growth in all types of soil.

All Melcourt's products are distributed nationally in either bagged or bulk form, with "walking floor" trailers available for uneven sites or where storage space is a problem.
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Flo-Gro range offers the modern turf manager liquid fertilisers in a combination of nutrients that are designed to suit a wide range of situations. Some of the Flo Gro products contain "Didin Fluid" the slow release nitrogen inhibitor which phases the amount of nitrogen available to the plant. These liquid fertilisers eliminate unsightly powder and granule residues and mower 'pick-up' on fine turf. Formulated as liquids Flo-Gro ensures more accurate and simple measuring and application can be combined with pesticide and other liquid turf care products.

Initially six Flo-Gro products will be available for use on turf and each is packed in 20 litre plastic containers, each product is colour coded to ensure easy recognition. Farmura is well known for its role in pushing the introduction of environmentally safe turf management products for greenkeepers, have now taken on a new roll.

The Turf Iron is a one man operated self propelled machine utilising a unique three roller system, each one being three feet wide, that gives putting greens a look that they have just been 'ironed' without, according to the manufacturers claim, any compaction. Advantages gained by using the Turf Iron are faster, more even greens, longer life for mowing machines by not having to cut as low and better control of moisture content.

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