

BASF Gets Into Britain

Several parties were treated by BASF recently to site visits of the company's vast and impressive base at Ludwigshafen on the Rhine and the nearby Limburgerhof Research Station. Later, they moved on to the American Golf Club at Heidelberg where BASF's Floranid has been applied. During the visits, Floranid and BASF's approach to the UK market was outlined.

Initially, the operation was divided into general turf and fine turf categories and BASF then started to evaluate its products - already proven on the continent - under UK weather conditions.

The STRI handled the work, which began in 1979 on both turf types and using sulphate of ammonia as the control.

In 1982, Roy Woolhouse of the STRI presented the ongoing general turf trial results at the International Turfgrass Conference in Canada and the findings were published in the 1983 *STRI Journal*.

On both types of sward, the slow-release effects of fertilisers containing Isodur (BASF's brand name for IBDU) was proved. An average release pattern of 12 to 14 weeks in summer was established with a carry-over effect from autumn into spring, building up the longer Isodur was used. The vegetative nature of Isodur treated plots remained constant,

whereas the rapid reduction in pH on the control plots caused the trials to be abandoned.

In 1983, Dr E. Belger presented a paper at the 2nd National Turfgrass Council Conference on the properties of Isodur.

He stressed the different types of slow-release fertiliser available - coated products, products containing nitrogen inhibitors, organic based products and chemically broken down products. He went on to explain the development in the synthetic organic sector leading to Isodur.

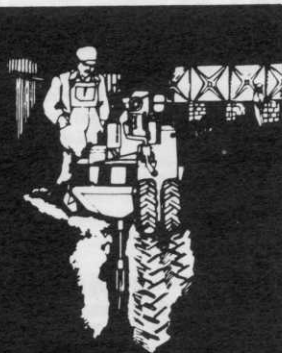
Synthetic organic slow-release nitrogen always has the same molecular structure and, so, works consistently. Isodur is broken down by temperature and moisture, the two factors affecting



SAND SLITTING?

AFT trenchers are good - very good.

... because we have been manufacturing and developing trenching machines for sportsfields over a 15 year period. Whether you want to buy or hire, our machines are first class. Find out more about the range. Write or telephone for details, demonstration etc



AFT Trenchers Ltd
Gosbecks Road
Chester CO2 9JS
Tel. 0206 44411

REDDISH VALE GOLF CLUB LTD.

requires an

ASSISTANT HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants should be suitably qualified and experienced in all aspects of Golf Course Management. Salary negotiable - no accommodation.

Replies with C. V. to:

GREENS CHAIRMAN, REDDISH VALE GOLF CLUB LTD,
SOUTHCLIFFE ROAD, REDDISH,
STOCKPORT, CHESHIRE.



Treated with conventional fertiliser...



Treated with Floranid...

plant growth. Temperature produces microbial activity, but when this stops, as the temperature falls, hydrolysis continues to release small amounts of nitrogen, thus extending the value and range of uses of products containing Isodur when compared to other products.

In 1983, trials were conducted at the STRI looking at sand constructed pitches with their high nutrient requirements. This work confirmed to BASF that the benefits seen above ground for Isodur-based fertilisers were also apparent beneath the surface.

User trials were also initiated to ensure that, in conventional situations, the product could be applied evenly and effectively without qualified supervision.

Other companies came into the market and slow-release products started to increase the potential size of the UK amenity fertiliser market, but the overall potential remained unknown. BASF confirmed this with an in-

dependently commissioned survey. Findings showed the total area of intensively managed amenity turf to be 192,375ha and a market worth in excess of £10 million.

BASF decided to become directly involved and market a UK Floranid range, consisting of:

- Floranid N 31% N - for use on fine turf areas or where high levels of nitrogen are necessary.

- Floranid Turf 20.5.8.2. - designed for fine turf areas requiring p and k or for sandy sports pitches where a highly effective product is required.

- Floranid NPK 15.9.15.2 - the workhorse of the range and ideal for broad spectrum use, such as grass, flowers and shrubs. The preferred product where a single product approach is required.

- Floranid NK 14.0.19.3 - new to the UK market. Surveys have shown that over 60 per cent of fine turf areas were oversupplied with p. Floranid NK can be used on its own or in conjunction with

Floranid N, but it also has applications in horticulture from where it originated.

Because the products release their nitrogen slowly, the risk of leaching is virtually eliminated, even on sand soils.

For sometime, managers of fine turf areas have expressed concern over the 'pick-up' of fertiliser when turf is cut. The physical persistence of a slow-release product will obviously be more susceptible to pick-up - product colour making this more noticeable. In order to minimise this problem, the Floranid range has been screened to a specific size. The company says this is preferable to alterations of the physical make up of the granule, which would affect the product's efficiency.

National distribution of Floranid in the UK is handled by George A. Palmer, Horticultural and Amenity Division, Oxney Road, Peterborough, Northants PE1 5YZ. Tel: 0733 61222.