

# WETTING AGENTS

## THE LONG HOT SUMMER - DID WETTING AGENTS PERFORM?

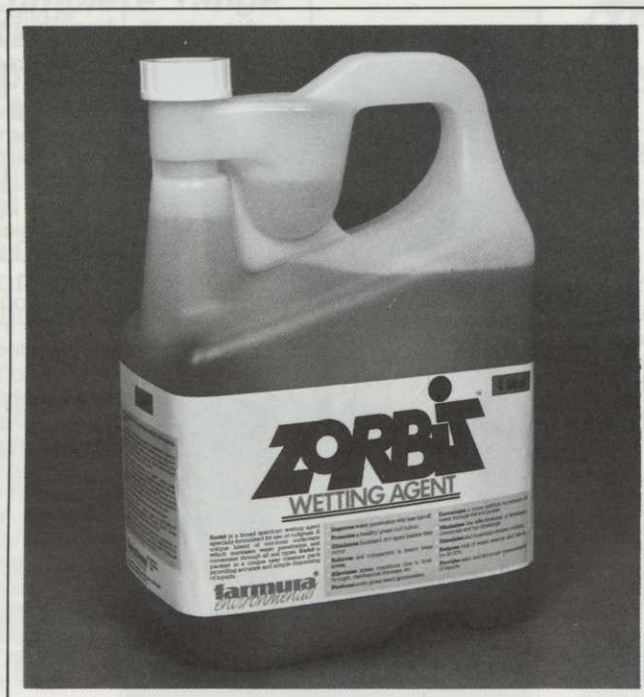
**T**AKING a look at field results and the results of controlled scientific trials - the answer is "some did and some did not". We take a closer look at what happened and give some reasons why to help you make decisions about wetting agent use this year to give the right results.

The benefits for turfgrass management include prevention or alleviation of dry patch, penetration of water through thatch build up, penetration of water into hard, dry, compacted areas, more uniform turfgrass cover and quality and increased water efficiency because less water is wasted by run off and evaporation. Problems with several of these situations were experienced last summer.

Did wetting agents perform? Yes. Were there differences in performance? Yes. Both in products and in methods of use. For example, trials conducted by STRI during the last two years have revealed significant difference in the effectiveness of wetting agents for increasing infiltration into turfgrass on golf courses.

Differences have also been observed in the amount of product required to achieve results, the actual cost of using different materials, the residual of applications, etc. Several wetting agents perform quite consistently well - some do not seem to work at all. STRI trials have also shown differences in the performance of preventative as compared to curative type application programmes.

Results from the recent "long, hot summer" showed that AquaGro used preven-



tatively, i.e. commencing applications in the Spring, BEFORE dry patch appears, was effective in keeping dry patch from forming. By contrast, a curative program, i.e. not beginning wetting agent applications until some dry patch is evident, eventually alleviated the dry patch problem - but not without stress occurring to the turfgrass. These results are consistent with findings in several other countries where the AquaGro is used for prevention or alleviation of dry patch.

Wetting agents did perform last summer. There are products on the market that work well and the better informed greenkeeper who uses them strategically will benefit from their use.

## FARMURA ENTERS ZORBIT!

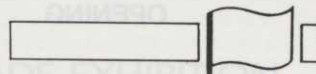
**F**OLLOWING ten years of research and development Farmura Ltd have entered the turf wetting agent market with their new broad spectrum wetting agent, Zorbi.

Zorbi contains a unique blend of non-ionic surfactants designed to assist water penetration and movement through a wide range of soil types.

In addition to improving water penetration, eliminating dry spots and relieving the effects of soil compaction Zorbi will maximise the benefits of fertiliser and top dressing applications and stimulate deeper root development.

Zorbi is supplied in 6 litre packs which provides accurate, simple and economic dispensing of liquids.

For further information contact Farmura Ltd., Stone Hill, Egerton, Ashford, Kent, TN27 9DU. Tel: (023 376) 241/581.

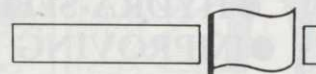


## NEW SYSTEM FOR APPLYING AQUA-GRO WETTING AGENT

**S**UPATURF have introduced a new system for applying their leading wetting agent, Aqua-gro - the Aqua-gro Advantage System.

This brand new system incorporates a ready-to use applicator which fits quickly and easily onto a standard hose, and an Aqua-Gro pellet container. By simply fitting the pellet container into the applicator, Aqua-gro can be applied through a hose pipe during normal irrigation, allowing water to move uniformly into root zones. The high volume of water used ensures complete turf safety under any weather conditions providing temporary relief for localised dry spots, puddles, compaction or thatch.

The Advantage Applicator and fittings are able to handle the high pressures normally used to operate irrigation systems. The pellet will dissolve in about 1 hour at water pressures of 60 to 90 psi and one pellet should treat up to one acre or 6 to 7 average greens at a rate of 10 minutes per green.



**farmura**  
environmental

## IN 1989

FARMURA LAUNCHED  
'ZORBIT' THE NEW  
TURF WETTING AGENT  
FORMULATED  
SPECIFICALLY FOR USE  
ON FINE TURF

**RESULT:** GREENKEEPERS VERY PLEASED. COMPETITORS NOT PLEASED AT ALL!

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# ZORBIT

## WETTING AGENT

- Promotes a healthy green turf colour
- Eliminates localised dry spots before they occur.
- Relieves soil compaction in heavy wear areas
- Encourages a more uniform movement of water through the soil profile
- Stimulates and maintains deeper rooting

6  
LITRE  
easy  
dispenser  
pack