University and laboratory tests confirm benefits of Isolite

WESTMINSTER, Colo. — Results from university and laboratory testing confirm that the porous ceramic technology of Isolite significantly increases root mass, relieves compaction, increases retention of plant-available water in soils and delays wilt in the turfgrasses tested.

In announcing the research data, Innova Corp., which markets Isolite nationwide, noted that the tests confirm findings in the field.

The independent tests, performed by Dr. Tony Koski, assistant professor of horticulture at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, and by Chuck Dixon of Turf Diagnostics and Design in Kansas, demonstrated Isolite’s ability to favorably modify soil conditions.

Koski’s testing focused on moisture retention, while Dixon’s dealt with Isolite’s effects on various root zone mixes.

Calling Isolite a “unique soil modifier” Dixon said, “Not only does Isolite provide water management in the soil, but it also provides air management.

“Unlike traditional soil supplements, Isolite holds water, but also gives it back to the roots of the plants. As the water is given up, pores fill with oxygen, providing a balance of water and oxygen in the soil. This is a very positive attribute of the Isolite technology.”

Dixon’s test results also showed that Isolite decreased the bulk density of soil, and balanced the capillary and noncapillary pore space.

“One of the attributes of Isolite that amazed me was the stability of the granules,” Dixon remarked. “This indicated that Isolite will remain stable in a sand system.”

Koski used laboratory, greenhouse and field testing as part of his research. In the field, Koski tested Isolite in a green built to USGA specifications, with very close tolerances.

“We compared Isolite in a USGA specification 90/10 sand/peat mix to a sand/peat mix by itself,” Koski said. “Our tests showed that Isolite increased water retention and plant-available water compared to sand/peat alone.”

Tee-2-Green tabs
Duich as consultant

HUBBARD, Ore.—Dr. Joseph M. Duich has joined Tee-2-Green Corp. as technical advisor and consultant.

Duich was professor of turfgrass science at Pennsylvania State University for more than 36 years, retiring Dec. 31.

While at Penn State, Duich assisted Professor H.S. Musser in developing Penncross creeping bentgrass, released in 1985. Penncross was the first advanced creeping bentgrass cultivar exclusively for golf course use. Duich later developed Pennlinks and Pennlinks creeping bentgrasses.

He taught turfgrass science to hundreds of golf course superintendents, and has often consulted with, and spoken to golf course associations.

As consultant and technical advisor for Tee-2-Green Corp., Duich will address golf course superintendents’ questions and management practice inquiries concerning the “Penn Pals” creeping bentgrasses.

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