

# Fairy rings are widespread due to weather

One feature of the '97 season has been the increase in fairy ring activity that has been reported on both fine and coarse turf throughout the UK. This increase seems to be across the range of different types of fairy ring and not just certain ones. For example on golf greens the traditional type one rings caused by *Marasmius oreades* have been equally prevalent as the superficial fairy rings or thatch fungi as they are sometimes known.

According to Dr Neil Baldwin, Technical Service Manager for Service Chemicals the reason that fairy rings are so widespread this year lies with the weather.

"The ring of toadstools produced by the fairy ring is the fruiting bodies which liberate spores into the air so the fungus can reproduce and move to new areas. To prevent it from doing this at the wrong time the fungus produces chemical inhibitors known as stalling substances

which stop the production of toadstools," explained Dr Baldwin.

"The weather this year has been characterised by dry and wet spells with most areas getting some heavy downpours. These are essentially the signal for fairy rings to produce its toadstools, which have been so evident this year.

"In many cases the active fairy ring is also causing a good deal of water repellency in the soil which may be causing damage to the turf. Wetting agents can break this water repellency and thus help in fairy ring control," said Dr Baldwin.

"The use of a full programme of wetting agents may have been furthest away from your thoughts with the very changeable summer but if you have continued to use wetting agents in a programmed manner then this will have helped to keep your turf in a healthy condition better able to withstand a dry or wet autumn," he added.

## Seminar date set

The South West and South Wales Regional Seminar in partnership with Rigby Taylor will again be held at Cannington College on November 26.

The programme includes papers by Cameron McMillan on "Golf Course Construction"; Golf Professional John Stirling on "The Course is only as Good as the Greenkeeper"; Jack McMillan on "The Importance of Course Maintenance"; Andrew Lawrence on "BIGGA Insurance and How it Works for You"; Rod Baker of Amazon on "The Importance of Working with the Environment and How You Can Win a Prestigious Award" and Mick Blasdale, of Time/System UK Ltd on "Making the Best Use of Your Time". There will also be papers from student greenkeepers.

Anyone wishing to book the seminar - members £15 non-members £22 - should contact Regional Administrator Paula Humphries, Truants Cottage, Zeal Monachorum, Crediton, Devon EX17 6DF Tel: 01363 82777.



## Quality is rewarded

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Jim Simnett, who undertook the assessment for QMS Quality Management Systems Limited, paid particular tribute to "the investment in people and training that enables Complete Weed Control (North Midlands) to give an efficient service to their customers.

# Course tired, listless, feeling worn out?



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