



## Alternative to Chemical Applications

Dyofix Pond Blue when applied to a pond

Dichlobenil, the last remaining biocide used to control rooted submerged plants, was withdrawn last month to comply with EU directives. With it, the range of products available to greenkeepers charged with the upkeep and maintenance of water hazards will be more limited than ever before.

One of the few non-toxic and environmentally friendly products available is Dyofix, an algae prevention and inhibitor product which uses blends of European Food Safety Approved colours.

The imminent Dichlobenil ban comes as research by the charity Pond Conservation found that 80% of Britain's ponds are in a "poor" or "very poor" state, and their condition has deteriorated markedly since 1996.

Dyofix has been developed by West Yorkshire based industrial colours specialists, Town End (Leeds) plc.

"Our inhibitors don't kill algae, but they do prevent growth, allowing the algae to either sink or be scooped off the surface of the pond," said Director Peter Watson.

The Dyofix product range – Pond Blue and Lake Shadow – are free of pesticides, algacides and other harmful chemicals. They don't have a chemical reaction or interaction to attack submerged plants and/or algae; instead they have a mechanical reaction with the water to create a UV reflector, and so don't pose any threat to humans when retrieving their golf balls.

Dyofix Pond Blue can be used by golf clubs and greenkeepers to prevent the growth of algae and submerged plants and colour the water an appealing blue colour.

One kilo of Pond Blue will treat up to 10,000,000 litres of pond water.

Dyofix Lake Shadow offers the same benefits as Pond Blue and has been developed for customers who require a more subtle colourless effect in their lake or pond.

Once applied, both products will last for several months, and can be used all year round.

[www.dyes.co.uk](http://www.dyes.co.uk)



## AIMED AT GRAVEL SURFACES

Scotts has launched a new pre-emergent herbicide that protects against regrowth on gravel and soft surfaces.. Applied post-emergence, ProShield is rainfast within one hour and gives rapid knockdown and kill to a broad range of problematic weed species while its barrier action prevents germination for up to six months.

It is fast acting because of the synergy of its two potent actives, Glyphosate and Diflufenican (DFF), which have complementary modes of action. Diflufenican is extremely hydrophobic.

It adheres to the surface and forms a skin or 'barrier' that protects against germination. Because it's hydrophobic it stays in place, preventing weed germination.

Glyphosate is taken up through the foliage and translocated throughout the plant. Its post-emergence activity kills seedlings and established weeds. The effects of ProShield on broad-leaved perennials can be seen 8-10 days after application, compared to 14-21 days with Glyphosate only.

[www.scottspprofessional.co.uk](http://www.scottspprofessional.co.uk)





## New Wetting Agent

Vitax Amenity's leading, long term wetting agent Ultraflo is now available in a new formulation with a dilution rate cut by over 50%.

Ultraflo Advance retains the same application rate as its predecessor – 50 litres per hectare – but this can now be diluted in just 950 litres of water instead of the former 2,000 litres. This means that more turf can be treated with a single tank saving time, money and water.

Vitax's Commercial Manager Daniel Wilkinson says that although Ultraflo has earned a solid reputation as a highly effective, long term wetting agent which reduces irrigation requirements by improving water penetration, it is the product's longevity that has made its name.

"Ultraflo's main claim to fame is the fact that a single application persists for up to 12 months," he explains. "If the product had a disadvantage it was the amount of water needed for application. With the development of Ultraflo Advance we've kept all the long term benefits of the original, including reduced risk of run-off from sloping ground, flooding and water logging of turf and put them into a much more manageable and even more cost effective form."

Ultraflo Advance is available in 10 and 20 litre drums and suitable for application on both fine and amenity turf.

[www.vitaxamenity.co.uk](http://www.vitaxamenity.co.uk)

## SPORTS PITCHES



Limagrain UK has revamped the popular winter sports seed mixture MM60 this year so that it contains double the level of STRI chart-topping perennial ryegrass Madrid, and for the first time, new variety Milan, also rated highly on the STRI List.

Limagrain's Matt Gresty explains: "MM60 is a 100% perennial ryegrass mixture designed to provide a dense hard wearing sward with excellent recovery and disease resistance.

As more seed for these new varieties has now

been produced, we have been able to increase the levels in the formulations raising the visual merit and ground cover potential to further enhance the playing surface of winter sports pitches."

MM60 now contains 30% Madrid, 10% Milan, 45% Melbourne, and 15% San Remo. As with all the MM range, the seed is treated with the biostimulant Headstart to help improve establishment.

[www.limagrain.co.uk](http://www.limagrain.co.uk)



## New Publication from British Seed Houses

British Seed Houses' new publication explores the options available to Greenkeepers and offers an explanation of the difference between Fescues and Bents. With a foreword by Leah Brilman, Director of Research & Technical Services at Seed Research of Oregon, this guide details the characteristics of suitable cultivars and puts the case for sowing a purely Velvet Bent mixture.

The brochure is available to download from [www.bshamenity.com](http://www.bshamenity.com) or to get a printed copy email to [seeds@bshlincoln.co.uk](mailto:seeds@bshlincoln.co.uk)