

Divot mix gets green light for agronomy



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Throughout golf's history, divots have caused unsightly conditions and negatively influenced play, making divot repair and divot management programmes an integral part of golf course management.

The use of green divot mixes has traditionally been seen as an expensive 'luxury' which is used in high profile televised golf tournaments and football matches.

However, there is ever growing interest in the use of specialised pigment based technologies to give agronomic values to modern day sports turf management. It has been identified that the use of green coloured sand has more than just an aesthetic 'Green Up' benefit but also has an agronomic benefit in terms of quicker seed germination and establishment when used as a divot mix.

A recent trial conducted in March 2012 by Becker Underwood Inc., showed that an 80/20 divot mix coloured with Green Lawngrer™ (green pigments) increased the speed of germination and estab-

lishment to that of a standard divot mix. (Figure 1).

The pigments and Colorlock™ technology in Green Lawngrer, which is manufactured by Becker Underwood Inc, physically coats the sand particle and changes the colour from a light brown to a dark green.

By changing the colour of the sand from a light brown to a dark green this helps maximise the suns energy by raising the temperature of the divot mix. This happens due to the darker colour being able to absorb more of the light spectrum which includes infrared light (warm light). Light brown coloured sand has the ability to reflect more light radiation and keep the divot mix cooler, which slows the germination rate down to that of the darker material.

By absorbing more radiation (heat) in the divot mix this helps create conditions that are more conducive for seed germination when quick establishment is required in the spring and autumn.

Preparing Green Divot mixes is straight forward and costs as little as .7p per Kg to produce. Mixing small amounts of divot mix can be carried out by using a portable cement mixer or similar mixing device.

Green Lawngrer is the leading turf colourant in the world, which is used throughout the year to improve the colour of stressed areas, which is caused by drought, fertiliser and pest damage. Green Lawngrer has become well recognized by grounds maintenance professionals and has made appearances at many significant sporting events, including the Olympic Games, FIFA World Cups, European Champions League and major golf events.

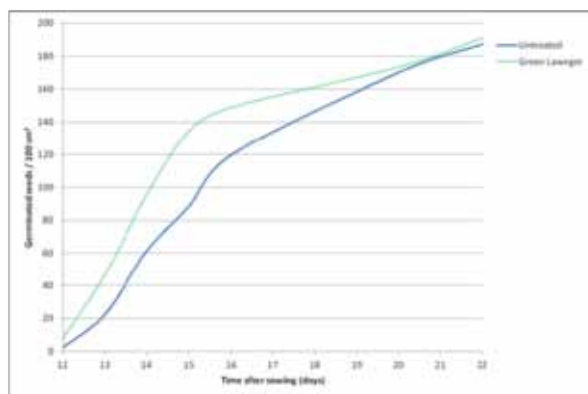
For more information regarding Green Lawngrer, please contact Becker Underwood UK, 01903 732323 or e-mail info.uk@beckerunderwood.com

(Figure 4) – Ryegrass establishment (Lolium perenne, var. Ligala Amenity PRG. DLF Trifolium, Worcester). Photo taken 13 days after sowing.



ABOVE (Figure 3) - Bent grass establishment (Agrostis stolonifera). Photo taken 26 days after sowing.

(Figure 1) The graph below demonstrates that sand treated with pigment increases the speed of seed germination of creeping Bentgrass (Agrostis stolonifera).



Recruitment

Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club

Assistant Links Superintendent required

Our team requires a highly motivated, forward thinking individual for the position of Assistant Links Superintendent at one of Britain's oldest and finest links courses, and host to the 2013 Amateur Championship

Candidates will have:

- Minimum of 5 years links experience
- Appropriate qualifications
- Knowledge of maintaining top level courses to the highest standards
- PA1, PA2 and PA6 essential
- A high level of competence with modern greenkeeping equipment
- Good team/motivational skills

- A keen eye for presentation and detail
- Preferred but not essential qualities include:**
- Championship course experience
- Tournament experience
- A working knowledge of machinery/workshop tools
- A good level of competence with modern irrigation systems
- Experience in golf course construction

A competitive salary and benefits package is on offer, based around 45 hours per week, including every 2nd weekend. The successful candidate will work closely with the Links Superintendent to continue forward momentum and improvement of this top level course. Please send your CV and covering letter to the Links Superintendent: chris.barnard@royalcinqueports.com Closing date 23rd July 2012



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