

GI NEW PRODUCTS

The latest products on the market reviewed

APPLICATION ADVICE AT BIGGA SEMINAR

A new online Nozzle Selector will enable turf managers and sprayer operators to select the best combination of spray nozzle and water volume to optimise turf applications this season.

The simple tool, available at www.greencast.co.uk, enables operators to quickly select the intended spray target and the type of treatment or product being applied, to instantly see the appropriate XC Nozzle and water volume to use.

The Nozzle Selector covers the range of fungicides, herbicides and growth regulators, along with associated liquid fertiliser tank-mix combinations that can be included to improve turf health and vigour to counter disease risks.

Syngenta Turf Technical Manager, Dr Simon Watson, highlighted the new XC Nozzles can allow operators to apply at lower water volumes than previously used. This can enable greater sprayer output for more timely application, reduce weight carried on greens and, most importantly, increase product retention on the leaf that can give better results.

Greenkeepers, sprayer operators and students in the south west of England had



the chance to see the new Syngenta XC Nozzles in action and pick up some of the latest tips and information on spray application technology at the BIGGA Devon & Cornwall Spring Seminar, held at St Mellion Golf Club.

Dr Watson detailed how the new XC Nozzle Technology has been engineered to deliver more consistent coverage across the spray boom when spraying slopes on golf

courses, to counter the risk of drift to enable more spraying opportunities and incorporating exclusive design features to enhance all-round coverage of the turf leaf, to get the best possible results from every application.

Further tips provided in Dr Watson's presentation and practical demonstration included sprayer calibration and nozzle height setting - along with advice on calculating the

area of greens and fine-tuning sprayer filling to achieve more precise and accurate application across the course. All the techniques and advice offered by Dr Watson is available from the GreenCast website Application Zone. Thanks to Course Manager and Master Greenkeeper, Mike Bush, and the St Mellion greenkeeping team for hosting the event and assisting with the sprayer demonstration.

AERATION BRINGS RUTLAND'S GREENS UP TO SPEED



Sitting alongside one of the largest man-made lakes in Europe, Rutland Water Golf Club offers the golfer 18 holes on the championship Normanton Course and nine par three holes on the Hambleton course. The club did have standing water issues on greens, but following the acquisition of a Sisis Javelin Aer-Aid 1500, Head Greenkeeper, Dan Wren reports a dramatic improvement.

The tractor mounted Javelin Aer-Aid 1500 not only aerates with a vertical action, but also injects air into the root zone at a fast working rate, creating thousands of fissures.

Dan says: "Certain greens were holding moisture and it seemed that whatever action we took the problem persisted. The greens concerned were those where the thatch layer was thicker. We did our equipment research and our local dealer recommended the Sisis Javelin Aer-Aid 1500. I was aware of the beneficial effects of injecting air into greens and the improvement in the quality of our greens was achieved very quickly. The moisture retention problem has disappeared and the greens are consistent, firm and dry."

FANTASTIC FAIRWAYS AT BURGHILL VALLEY WITH HEADLAND AMENITY



“We then applied Multigreen temperature controlled release fertiliser, with Clipless growth regulator and Elevate FE complexed liquid iron in a tank mix,” he adds. “Clipless helps control excess growth while the iron in Elevate FE prevents any yellowing on the edges of leaves and helps carry it into the plant. The results have been an impressive thickening up of growth on the fairways which has filled in the divots so that they look like a carpet.”

Steve comments that the combination of Multigreen, Clipless and Elevate FE is a highly cost-effective solution, which gives the fairways a rich green colour rather than the light green of a growth flush.

Tricure AD is another useful product, he comments: “We don’t have many high spots on the greens, but using Tricure AD ensures that there are no dry patches. It is used in combination with Turfcomplex biostimulant to keep the turf healthy, which is essential as our greens are relatively small and get a lot of use. These are fantastic products and we get great results.”

Dramatic improvements have been made to the fairways at Burghill Valley Golf Club in Herefordshire last year using Multigreen, Elevate FE and Clipless from Headland Amenity.

Head Greenkeeper Steve Lloyd comments: “The course

is on fertile, heavy clay which drains well and the greens were built from a local soil and sand mix. However, 20 years of top dressing and soil exchange using hollow tines have built up a good growing medium which gives an improved root structure for the turf. We have

also reconstructed bunkers and tees over the years to make for more challenging play.”

Most recently the fairways came under the spotlight. The renovation programme began with hollow tining and deep aeration on the fairways before they were scarified in April.



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