

New turf fungicide Interface from Bayer

BTME 2013 hosted the launch of Bayer's innovative new turf fungicide Interface. Building on the trusted excellence of Chipco Green, a staple fungicide in any greenkeeper's repertoire, Bayer have improved upon this market leading product and formulated a truly superior product, proving that they are leaders in innovation.

Introducing StressGard Formulation Technology

Bayer is proud to introduce the UK's first turf fungicide with the company's innovative StressGard Formulation Technology. This new optimised formulation has taken over 15 years of Research and Development and has been specifically developed to support Turf Managers in their quest to achieve the ultimate playing experience.

Tailor-made for sports turf, the formulation has been fine tuned to upgrade the performance of the product, providing superior disease control leading to visibly healthier turf.

Interface delivers unsurpassed disease control

Not only does Interface deliver unsurpassed disease control against 6 key turf diseases but the StressGard Formulation Technology helps the turf to thrive under disease stress conditions. Interface™ alleviates disease stress improving quality leading to visibly healthier turf.

But what do the Turf Managers think?

In addition to STRI trials, Bayer has conducted nearly 40 field trials with Golf Course Managers, Greenkeepers and Spraying Operators to ensure that their new fungicide will meet their needs in the real working environment. It is through close collaboration with Turf Managers that Bayer can develop products which address unmet customer and market needs.

In a year when Fusarium patch has been a serious problem, Steve Privett, golf course manager at Alresford Golf Club and one of the early product triallists, decided to treat three greens out of the eighteen on his golf course with Interface; the rest were treated with his regular fungicide. "In order to give it a fair trial, I applied the product to the greens which are most susceptible to fusarium in early spring," says Steve.

"I applied a second treatment about six weeks later and over the June bank holiday the disease on the three trial greens vanished; whereas fusarium appeared as two inch scars on the greens that hadn't been sprayed with Interface.



The trial turf recovered very well, potentially quicker than normal, which I think is evidence of the StressGard Formulation Technology doing its job."

Dorin Pop, Bayer's Technical Manager stated: "With preventative, curative and eradicant properties, Interface can be used at any stage of disease and at any time of the year offering Turf Managers complete flexibility."

He continued: "Bayer's mission is to help Greenkeepers to achieve better playability. This means controlling turf disease, managing turf stress and maintaining turf quality."

Finally, Product Manager, Claire Mathewman commented: "Interface offers a new standard in turf protection and is an exciting addition to our turf fungicide portfolio. We anticipate that it will quickly become the mainstay fungicide in the turf professional's armoury against turf disease." She continued: "Bayer is proud to use BTME 2013 as their launch platform. An exciting new product needs an exciting stage, and BTME was the obvious choice. Interface is available in a 5L pack, and can be purchased through all major distributors.



Headland Amenity

Accurate weather forecasting tailored to a specific location is one of the most useful tools for greenkeepers and groundsmen aiming to plan course maintenance operations.

Headland Amenity offers Weathercheck, a personalised weather forecasting service allowing turf managers to access information on temperature, wind speed and direction as well as rainfall, with the choice of a general seven day forecast or a more detailed projection."

The innovative 'RainNow' option produces a 25km 'rain radar map' with their sports facility at the centre, and by using the Agronomic module, which combines anticipated rainfall, wind strength, precipitation, air temperature and evapotranspiration, they are able to accurately judge spraying conditions over the coming week.

Mark Wilshire, Head Greenkeeper at Wenvoe Castle Golf Club says that Headland Weathercheck's accuracy is impressive. "I use Weathercheck on a daily basis, if not hourly. Weathercheck is always the most accurate. I apply my pesticides and fungicides through a sprayer and Weathercheck helps me pinpoint the best weather window for spraying. Our time window for spraying isn't huge so an accurate weather forecast is invaluable. Weathercheck proved very useful last summer with all the rain."

Eric Olson, Estate Manager at The Royal Automobile Club in Surrey also added: "I use Weathercheck 3 to 4 times a day as it is updated regularly and is most accurate for the local area."

Two Bunker Solutions in One

Two of the country's top bunker construction companies have formed an alliance to ensure that golf clubs across the country will receive the best possible advice and service when it comes to developing bunkers on their golf courses.

Envirosports Ltd and Blinder Bunker Liners have each developed unique bunker products which have been warmly embraced by golf clubs over the last two years and between them the two companies have solved many of the bunker problems that have bedevilled golf clubs during that time.

The two concepts are different. EnviroBunker is a bunker face and edge solution which is resistive to all forms

of erosions while Blinder Bunkers provide a rubberised, flexible free draining liner which prevents contamination of sand. Both are developed from 100% recycled material, have a design life of 20+ years and together offer a completely maintenance free bunker solution.

EnviroBunker Blinder can be used jointly as seen at a recent collaborative project between the two companies at Royston Golf Club in Hertfordshire where the two products were used together to produce a fully sealed bunker solution.

There are also occasions when one or other will be the best solution to a club's bunker issues.

"We know that our product

is suitable for bunkers with faces over 45 degrees and that Blinder works best with faces that are under 45 degrees so we are more than happy to recommend Blinder if we believe that is the best option. Blinder also offers a base solution, we do not, and likewise we offer a finishing revetted edge solution which is unique to our product" said Rhydian Lewis, Envirosports Director.

"Once we've taken a look at the bunkers in question we will offer the best solution and should that be EnviroBunker we will be more than happy to recommend that option to the golf club," said Murray Long, Blinder Director.





JSM SWEEP N FILL BRUSHES COMPETITORS ASIDE

The latest version of the original and unique Sweep N Fill brush – the SNF III – has built on the legacy of the original with enhancements to make it even more user friendly and convenient. These include a narrower transport width, higher & faster transport lift with more ground clearance and a fully enclosed drive mechanism which allows for adjustment without removal of the protective covers.

The ground driven brushes can be towed by a golf cart, bunker bike or any small utility vehicle. The brush action mimics a 'push-broom' action – gently flicking the plant leaves upright while moving sand and topdressing into aeration holes and the crown of the plant.

Jim McKenzie MBE, Celtic Manor Resort said, 'Having been told about the SNF by existing users we arranged a demonstration while visiting BTME last year. The demo immediately proved the point as to how effective this brush is. It has transformed a laborious task.'



GreenTek showcases TuffTek

GreenTek, the well-known mower attachment manufacturers, used BTME to showcase a wide range of security equipment from their TuffTek division.

The True-Surface Select-A-Vibe rollers supplied by GreenTek are well known for their ease of use and their ability to create outstandingly smooth fast

putting surfaces.

What not everyone is aware of, is that they are also uniquely effective for vibrating topdressing into the turf and down hollow covering holes. GreenTek therefore focused their 2013 BTME stand around a working demonstration display that shows how this is achieved.

CourseTracker

A free and easy to use new online system that helps golf courses manage themselves more sustainably and efficiently has been launched by The R&A.

CourseTracker was unveiled at BTME 2013 in Harrogate. It's designed for golf course managers and club secretaries to record the income derived from the course and what is spent on its maintenance.

The secure system allows golf clubs to monitor their performance over time and identify strengths, weaknesses and areas where savings could be made in terms of energy and water, for example.

CourseTracker also enables golf clubs to anonymously benchmark their performance against that of other clubs of a similar size in their country. It produces accurate performance reports for the use of course managers and club secretaries and can be used to keep committees informed and to aid decision making.

The system has been extensively tested with course managers, club secretaries and industry bodies and their feedback has been used to develop and refine its range of functions. It has been endorsed by England Golf, the Golfing Union of Ireland, the Scottish Golf Union and the Golfing Union of Wales.

Steve Isaac, Director – Golf Course Management at The R&A, said, 'There is more pressure than ever on golf clubs to make the right

decisions to manage golf courses sustainably, efficiently and cost effectively. CourseTracker can help them do that through recording, monitoring and reporting their activities and inputs. We know this is an area where many clubs struggle due to lack of time and resources.

'CourseTracker is free, completely secure and can enable clubs to compare their performance on an anonymous basis with other clubs of a similar size and situation. The aim is to give clubs more information and understanding of their course maintenance activities to enable them to improve performance.'

Paul Keeling, Club Services Manager at England Golf which has supported CourseTracker, said, 'CourseTracker is an excellent new resource for golf clubs which can really help them get a grip on their expenditure on course maintenance. It is so important to manage golf courses sustainably both to protect the environment and reduce costs. This is a quick, easy to use system which can deliver accurate and useful management information for golf clubs. We will certainly be recommending CourseTracker to courses we work with in England.'

CourseTracker can be accessed online at www.coursetracker.org. Golf clubs need only spend a few minutes registering before using the system. It is simple to use and there are full online tutorials available for guidance.