



These products seriously improve the health of your turf.

Applications of Syta-Turf and Syta-Thatch microbial products improve the overall condition of your turf by establishing a colony of beneficial soil microbes, working independently and synergistically, to benefit the plants health and, its on-going development.



Syta-Turf's unique formulation, specially introduced to integrate alongside microbial biostimulants and turf fungicide treatments, contains a group of bacterial cultures that have been selectively identified through DNA 'fingerprinting' as having proven abilities to provide specific benefits to turf.

- **Increased turf vigour** – Leaf density is increased without stimulating unwanted growth.
- **Improved root development** – Root mass and deeper rooting is achieved.
- **Enhanced leaf colour** – Plants increase chlorophyll levels and photosynthetic activity.



- **Greater stress tolerance** – Healthy root system is maintained, even at times of severe stress.
- **Better soil nutrient uptake** – 'Unlocks' previously unavailable nutrients making them available to the plant.

Specific health issues such as thatch layer can be addressed by degrading the thatch layer to allow water and air to percolate more freely and encourage a healthy environment for root development.

Syta-Thatch contains a selected microbe and enzyme complex that breaks down and degrades the cellulose fraction of the thatch and then stimulates the re-development of an improved root system. Results should be seen within 30 days.



Syta-Turf and Syta-Thatch are formulated as stable, easy to use liquids. Neither product requires watering-in, both are unaffected by ULV light and treatments can be made as conventional sprays.

Distributed by:

RT

rigby taylor

MASCOT
LABORATORIES

FREEPHONE 0800 424 919

www.rigbytaylor.com



Syta-Green products are marketed in the UK and Europe by GreenLink International Ltd,
1 Rysley, Holybread Lane, Little Baddow, Chelmsford, Essex CM3 4DD

Tel: +44 (0) 1245 222750 Fax: +44 (0) 1245 222755 E.Mail: greenlink@btinternet.com

'Syta-Turf', 'Syta-Thatch' are trademarks of, and manufactured by, Sybron Biochemicals, Salem, V.A, USA.



A guide to who's who at BIGGA

President
Sir Michael
Bonallack, OBE

BIGGA Board of Management
Chairman - Clive Osgood
Vice Chairman - Richard Barker
Past Chairman - Elliott Small

Board Members
Ian Semple
Paul Jenkins
Jim Paton
Ian Holoran
David Walden

Executive Director
Neil Thomas
E-mail: neil@bigga.co.uk

Administration Manager
John Pemberton
E-mail: john@bigga.co.uk

Sales & Marketing Manager
Steve Hardy
E-mail: steve@bigga.co.uk

Editorial/Media
Scott MacCallum
E-mail: scott@bigga.co.uk

Education & Training Manager
Ken Richardson
E-mail: ken@bigga.co.uk

Membership Services Officer
Tracey Maddison
E-mail: tracey@bigga.co.uk

Contact us

You can contact The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association in any number of ways:

Post: BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO61 1UF

E-mail: reception@bigga.co.uk

Internet: www.bigga.org.uk

Tel: 01347 833800

Fax: 01347 833801

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

The official monthly magazine of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association

Editorial

Editor: Scott MacCallum
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833801
E-mail: scott@bigga.co.uk

Advertising

Sales & Marketing Manager: Steve Hardy
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833802
E-mail: steve@bigga.co.uk

Sales & Marketing Department:
Cheryl Broomhead, Diane Bray, Meredith Foster
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833802
E-mail: sales@bigga.co.uk

Design

Design & Production Editor: David Emery
Tel: 01347 833800 ISDN: 01347 830020
E-mail: david@bigga.co.uk

Printing

Hi-Tec Print, Units 9-10, Houghton Road,
North Anston Trading Estate, North Anston,
Sheffield S25 4JJ ISDN: 01909 550561
Tel: 01909 568533 Fax: 01909 568206

The advertising copy deadline for inclusion in the May 2001 edition of Greenkeeper International is Friday, April 13, 2001

Greenkeeper International:

Contents may not be reprinted or otherwise reproduced without written permission. Return postage must accompany all materials submitted if return is requested.

No responsibility can be assumed for unsolicited materials. The right is reserved to edit submissions before publication.

Although every care will be taken, no responsibility is accepted for loss of manuscripts, photographs or artwork.

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Association, and no responsibility is accepted for such content, advertising or product information that may appear.

Circulation is by subscription. Subscription rate: UK £36 per year; Europe and Eire £46. The magazine is also distributed to BIGGA members, golf clubs, local authorities, the turf industry, libraries and central government.

ISSN: 0961-6977

© 2001 British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association

Advertisers' Index

Advertiser	Page
Alett Mowers	31
Aventis	45
Barenbrug UK Ltd	41
Bathgate Leisure	47
Boughton Loam	38
Dennis	38
Eagle Promotions	15
Fern House Marketing Ltd	47
Gambetti Barre	31
Greenlink	19
Greensward	52
Hardi	16
Hydroscape	35
ING Turfcare Finance	33
IOG	25
Inturf	38
ISS Irrigation Systems	37
Jimma (UK) Ltd	33
John Deere	67
Kubota UK Ltd	28
Lastec	16
Lely	68
Major Equipment	33
Marketing Links	2
Motorkov UK Ltd	49
North Staffs Irrigation	37
Perryfields	41
Rigby Taylor	7 & 51
Scotts/Levington	27
Sisis Equipment	55
Sportsworld Amenity	42
Textron Golf, Turf & Specialty	11
Wessex Farm Machinery	49

April 2001

Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by May 10, 2001

Regulars

News

Pages 4, 5 and 6

10 Education

Ken Richardson reinforces on the job training

12 Membership Update

13 Web watch

46-50 Around the Green

64 Sandy McDivot: Customer Service

Mr and Mrs McDivot enjoy a break in the sun and give Sandy an opportunity to assess the differences in customer service

66 Features Listing

Helping you track down some of Greenkeeper International's previous articles

66 As I see it...

BIGGA Chairman concludes his visit to Dallas moves on to Vancouver where he delivers a paper, returns home to be interviewed on Sky TV and see his club affected by the Foot and Mouth Outbreak... oh, and is caught up in an earthquake

TIME TO TALK

HAVE YOU CLICKED ON YET?

Visit www.bigga.org.uk and check out the latest chat from the greenkeeping industry

FOR GREENKEEPERS BY GREENKEEPERS CHAT GREENKEEPERS

www.bigga.org.uk

Features

14 Under one Roof

Andrew Jeffrey reports from Germany on the the work he and Peter Haggerty have done at Golfplatz Munchen Nord-Bichenried

17 Bolt from the Blue

Cedric Johns gives some warnings about how to avoid lightning and highlights the actions one club has taken to avoid tragedy

20 Reach for the Stars

John Wells MG, Estates Manager at the fabulous Brocket Hall, urges fellow greenkeepers to make the most of the talents they have

24 BIGGA shakes Vancouver

Anthony Davies MG, one of BIGGA delegation on the Bernard & Co sponsored trip to the CGSA Conference and Show in Vancouver reports back on the experience

29 Fairway to Heaven

Roland Taylor continues his series on mowing machinery by looking at the fairway machine

34 Splash Out

Victor Jamieson offers some valuable advice on purchasing a new irrigation system

39 Testing Times

David Rhodes explains how to achieve the best results from the time, effort and money invested in sward renovation

43 Essay Winner

Simon O'Hara, winner of the Under 25 category in the BIGGA Essay Competition displays his winning entry

53 Turf Disease: What's new?

Dr Kate Entwistle begins a series of regular contributions by talking you through turf diseases, including her own personal favourites



20 Reach for the Stars



29 Fairway to Heaven



34 Splash out: Irrigation systems



53 Turf Disease: So what's new?



Making the most of a bad situation

While the attention is quite rightly focussed on the nightmarish time the farming community is enduring right now, as well as the knock on effects the Foot and Mouth outbreak is having on tourism, many golf courses are also suffering a second kick in the teeth in the space of a few months.

Rainfall which broke longstanding records and closed some golf clubs for weeks and, in some cases, months at a time has fortunately abated only to be replaced by a phenomenon which is closing golf clubs for an altogether different reason.

Many calls were received at BIGGA HOUSE from members seeking advice on dealing with the outbreak and they were referred to their local MAFF office. Obviously different degrees of risk existed depending on the location and nature of the golf course and while some would no doubt have been recommended to close - including BIGGA Chairman, Clive Osgood's own club, Walton Heath, which closed for a week - others were not within a hundred miles of an outbreak and could continue very much as normal.

No doubt some clubs have received the doubly whammy of closure for flooding and closure for Foot and Mouth and for them the implications, while not as immediate as those for the poor farmers, are depressing.

No golf equals no golfers and no golfers, equals no revenue. While this is particularly devastating for pay and play and proprietary-owned facilities it also has implications for members' clubs, as no-one has reason to be at the club and clubhouse and pro shop need custom to keep them ticking over.

And if you think about it, if you are closed for a week that's 2% of the available money-making time in the year, a fortnight is 4%. If a club is budgeting for break even or a small profit that can be swallowed up immediately and golf club purchasing decisions may have to be reconsidered.

You don't have to be Einstein's long lost nephew to work out that the new fairway machine you've been promised this season might not materialise.

It is at times like these when you have to earn your stripes and look for ways of making the best of an unfortunate situation.

It would be hard not to agree with the treasurer when he says sacrifices have to be made, but couldn't other options be examined? Leasing, for example, or moving money from one budget to another. While drainage work must continue perhaps the three new tees you'd decided to build next autumn could wait for another year and the money saved used instead to finance a new hand mower. Whatever you consider most important.

It's all about priorities. How best can your reduced budgets be used to maximise your effectiveness over the tough short and middle term?

It's a question you should be asking because when the frustrated golfers return to the courses determined to make up for lost time they are going to be looking for tip top conditions.

An ability to make the most of a bad situations will be a valuable weapon in your armoury.

Scott MacCallum
Editor

Kubota restructures sales operations

Kubota (UK) Ltd has brought together its three sales operations into one division working beneath a single banner - Kubota Sales. Covering the three formerly separate sales divisions of Tractors, Industrial and Construction Machinery, and Engines, the move is designed to improve customer support.

Responsibility for the new combined sales operation lies with Kubota UK's Deputy Managing Director, Rene Orban, who becomes Sales Director in charge of all Kubota product sales.

Operating from Kubota UK's headquarters at Thame, Oxfordshire, the combined sales operation will have an annual turnover in excess of £50 million. Among the products contributing to this figure are compact tractors, tracked mini excavators and small diesel engines.



Above: Rene Orban, Deputy Managing Director of Kubota UK outside the Kubota UK headquarters at Thame, Oxfordshire

Sales, parts and service support for the Kubota product ranges brought together within the single sales division will continue to

be handled by a specialist distribution network of almost 90 Kubota-appointed and trained dealers throughout the UK.

HSE software launch

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) in collaboration with Royal & Sun Alliance has published Essentials of health and safety Routemap, an easy-to-use computer software package designed to help small businesses improve their health and safety awareness.

Director-General of the HSE Timothy Walker said. "The Essentials Routemap will assist firms to avoid accidents and ill health at work by helping them identify and control the risks their workers face."

"Having a health and safety

management system which is relevant to the risks or hazards involved helps ensure compliance with health and safety law, and more importantly helps reduce accidents and ill-health. Health and safety failures cost Britain up to £18 billion each year. The cost of work-related accidents and ill-health to employers is £140 to £300 for each worker employed," he said.

The Essentials Routemap is available at HSE Books, HMSO and at high street book stores and retailers at £95 + VAT.

New work-based NVQ Level 2 from Cannington College

Cannington College, Somerset, are currently developing a Work Based programme of study that will allow greenkeepers to gain an NVQ Level 2 qualification in Greenkeeping & Sportsurf Maintenance.

The work-based programme allows greenkeepers to be assessed in the workplace with minimal college attendance being required. The qualification is based upon the Greenkeeping Training Committee's 'Black Book'.

This new qualification offered by Cannington reflects the college's attitude of providing quality assured education & training for both people and businesses.

Interest shown in interest-free scheme

Over £2 million worth of new golf course equipment has been financed by John Deere Credit this winter, following an interest free credit scheme launched for the first time last year.

The scheme has proved very successful, with 107 deals signed with 30 dealers across the country. The most popular machines

chosen by golf courses have been John Deere's new greens and fairway mowers, and 4000 Series compact tractors, with list prices ranging from around £10,000 to £30,000.

"John Deere Credit's interest free scheme has obviously helped a number of our golf club customers with their equipment

purchases this winter," said Graham Williams, John Deere's Commercial and Consumer Equipment Division Manager.

These sales have contributed to a 40% increase in our golf and turf business over the last quarter, compared with last year, and we will certainly be planning to repeat the scheme next winter."

Huxley Golf expands business

Huxley Golf, who specialise in the supply and installation of all-weather surfaces for golf, and whose customers include many of the world's top golfers and golf courses, are expanding their business in response to increasing demand from customers.

The Hampshire-based firm, owned by Paul and Barry Huxley, has developed a comprehensive range of all-weather surfaces which includes putting greens, golf greens and target greens, golf course tees, practice tees, path-

ways, lawn and standing areas, cartways and driving range landing zones.

Huxley Golf's customer list includes Ian Woosnam and Darren Clarke, who are among several golfers who practise at home on Huxley Golf all-weather greens.

"Our business with golf courses has grown fast, but we could cope. Courses typically try one Huxley Golf all-weather tee and then come back for more. Several clubs now have 18 tees, while

pathways are now becoming popular. Last year we introduced our new all-weather putting greens and we only just coped with the demand. Because of this, we appointed five new Huxley Golf Specialist Area Distributors and Installers, in addition to our Scottish operation.

These new Distributors are now doing well and we are looking to appoint several more in key parts of the United Kingdom and also overseas," said Paul Huxley.

Get the most out of your Association

Having stood down at the end of my term of office on the National Board of BIGGA in January, I have had time to reflect on the progress made by the Association since its inception in 1987.

The saying "from little acorns big oak trees grow" certainly is the case as far as BIGGA is concerned. In 14 short years we have achieved so much. We now have our own purpose built headquarters, with its education unit, marketing department, magazine and advertising with a design base, a membership department to look after all members needs, plus a finance department to run the whole show. The regions have their own paid Administrators to keep members in touch with what's going on. It has all moved so fast, it is hard to take in, and we still have members dissatisfied - Why?

I wonder how many members have not yet attended our week in January for the National Education Conference and Exhibition. If not, you don't know what you are missing. There is so much to do, see and learn. Then of course there is our AGM where all members should make the effort to attend, even the critics. Harrogate is a lovely town and certainly the place to be for the BTME week. The camaraderie is unbelievable. Everywhere you go, whether it's in the halls, hotels, or around town in restaurants you see groups of greenkeepers young and old talking and passing on ideas, experiences and knowledge. A great week run by BIGGA for you!

If you add to that the Environment Competition, Toro Student of the Year and Excellence in Greenkeeping Competitions, with Management Courses held at BIGGA HOUSE, regional education courses etc, BIGGA members and staff should be proud of what has been achieved.

I would also like to mention our Section Secretaries and committees, Regional Administrators and their Boards. They all work very hard on your behalf. So why then are there so many moaners? Members who say, "what do I get out of it?" They never seem to ask themselves "what do I put into it?" If you don't help yourselves it is difficult for others to help you.

There is not a greenkeeper in the whole of the UK who has not benefited from BIGGA. Greenkeepers enjoy a far higher status now than ever before. Greenkeeper salaries and conditions



Above: Past Chairman, Gordon Child

have improved, so has your standing with clubs and in the golf world. This has not just happened because you have been sat on your backsides. This has come about with hard work and drive from your Association. Your membership package is first class, but again - do you use what's on offer? How many of you use the legal helpline for every day happenings at work or home, insurance discounts, education courses, library and of course your magazine. I bet most of you just take out your membership card, sign it and bin the rest, and then moan about what's in it for me.

Let's take one case in point. Do you read your magazine? If you do, do you then criticise its contents? There's nothing wrong in criticising just so long as it's constructive. How many of you put pen to paper? The magazine is all about information and if you have something to say why not write about it. I am sure the Editor will put it together for you if you feel you need his help. Don't just sit there and grumble about it, do something! Of course some people will criticise anything, often without knowing enough about the subject. Those people are very hard to please, and some will never be happy, no matter what.

The trade companies in general sup-

port the Association a great deal and we very much appreciate their help. Often they set a fine example to members up and down the country so don't slap them in the face by not attending their supported events, whether it be at national, regional or section level. I know you can't attend them all but it would be nice if you could turn up to a few, and not leave it to the same stalwarts all the time. Many greenkeepers and trade members have spent

a lifetime trying to improve the greenkeepers' lot, and still do, but now with BIGGA at the forefront we are at last seeing things happen. I have been in greenkeeping for 55 years and believe me the changes have been dramatic. We have come a long way over those years and it's great to see.

Nothing gives me more pleasure than to visit and see many young greenkeepers running golf courses in such a professional way. It makes me feel proud to be still part of this fine profession. I cannot understand members who are always being and talking negative, running down the very people and organisation that are there to help them to a better life and career. So I ask you all, just stop and think where you would be without BIGGA, try to think positive and help where you can.

I know there is still a long way to go, but we need your input if we are to keep on improving. It's your Association and if we are talking about value for money then all I can say is, "it's no use paying the bus fare if you don't get on in the first place".

On a personal note, I have always felt honoured to be allowed to serve BIGGA members as Administrator, Board member and most of all, your Chairman over the years. I got tremendous enjoyment from being part of something special, and for that I thank you all. Now that I have stood down, I do not intend to walk away as greenkeeping has been my life, so I will still be at as many events as I can, but certainly BTME.

There is no truer saying than, "he only helps those who help themselves."

Gordon Child, Past Chairman

Foot and Mouth: Latest advice

As the Foot and Mouth Outbreak spreads throughout the country more and more golf clubs are being forced to take action, including temporary closure to reduce the chances of the virus spreading.

Many members have contacted BIGGA HOUSE for advice on what action they should be taking and they have been referred to the MAFF Hotline 0845 0504141 for England and Wales and 0845 9335577 for Scotland. The lines are open from 8am to 11pm seven days a week.

It is this course of action which is also being recommended by the three UK mainland-based Golf Unions.

Additional information can be obtained from the MAFF website, which can be reached by a hyperlink from BIGGA's website, at the end of the Foot and Mouth Outbreak statement.

However the situation is still volatile, and advice often conflicting. A MAFF fact sheet outlining restrictions and precautions on outdoor activities in infected areas was withdrawn in light of further guidance issued on March 16.

With the level of risk dependent on location and topography of the golf club many Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers have taken the common sense attitude of "being seen to be being responsible" with disinfected straw or mats at the entrance to clubs, trolley bans and signs requesting that golfers wash their spikes after every round.

A fuller report on the impact the FMD outbreak has had on golf will be included in May's magazine.

Get the latest FMD news and links at www.bigga.org.uk/footandmouth.html

Plans for BIGGA's future get underway with survey

A selected number of members will shortly be receiving the survey, explained in last month's issue of Greenkeeper International. If you do have one drop through your letter box please take time to fill it in as comprehensively as you can as the information gleaned from it will help to shape the future of your Association.

If you don't receive a survey but would like to take part you can obtain one by contacting Mike Williamson, at; MW Associates PO Box 6677, Edinburgh, EH14 3YB Tel/Fax: 0131 476 6677 email: mw.assoc@virgin.net

New President elected for CGSA

Jay Leach has been elected as President of the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association for 2001. Jay is Superintendent of the Cottonwood Golf and Country Club in Dewinton, Alberta.

At the same time Vince Gillis, the National Executive Director of the CGSA, since '89 has been awarded a contract extension by the Board of Directors.

Royal Inverdivot GC...

www.tonyhusband.co.uk



Rachael joins BIGGA staff



Callers to BIGGA HOUSE may well already have spoken to the Association's new Receptionist/Administrator Rachael Foster who started work shortly after BTME.

Rachael recently moved to the York area after 16 years on the island of Jersey where she had worked as a Unit Trust Fund Administrator for two banks, Kleinwort Benson and Standard Bank. The move to North Yorkshire came with the appointment of her partner, Michael, to the post of Head of Spanish at a York school.

A fully qualified hairdresser and aerobics instructor Rachael (34) currently takes step, aerobic and Taijibo classes at Easingwold Community Centre while she is also interested in cooking and reading.

Architect expansion

Architects Gaunt and Marnoch Ltd have continued their expansion with a new office development in Huntly, Aberdeenshire, opened to give national coverage.

The office manager in Huntly is Allan Knight who will act as a first point of contact, passing on more detailed inquiries to Steve Marnoch and Jonathan Gaunt.

Gaunt and Marnoch currently have around 40 projects on-going in the UK, Ireland and continental Europe.

Hardi 3 Star approval not shrouded in secrecy

The Hardi Defender range of shrouded amenity sprayer booms have been awarded LERAP 3 Star approval. As the only shrouded boom currently on the market to have such approval, it essentially means that only a Defender boomed sprayer is legally allowed to spray within one metre of a watercourse.

"Defender is the first shrouded boom to gain the full 3 Star LERAP rating and the importance and consequences of this award should not be under-estimated, especially for those who need to spray close to water," said Nick Tremlett, Managing Director of Hardi Ltd.

"Regardless of whether or not a sprayer has a shrouded boom, unless the boom has this 3 Star rating it generally cannot be used to spray within six metres of a water course."

Under LERAP (Local Environment Risk Assessment for Pesticides), where the drift from pesticides could affect water quality or harm plants, water or aquatic life, such pesticides can only be used near water if a Buffer Zone, generally six metres, is left



unsprayed. The only exception to this is where the spraying equipment is proven to reduce drift, it will be given a 1, 2 or 3 Star rating. The higher the rating, the more the buffer zone can be reduced, coming down to one

metre for 3 Star rated equipment.

The Defender boom has been awarded 3 Star approval when used at pressures of between 1 bar and 10 bar, which covers most spraying requirements.

New year sees new staff for STRI



Three new members of staff joined STRI for the New Year.

Dr Ruth Mann replaces Kate Entwistle as Turf Pathologist. Ruth arrived at Bingley from the Northern Ireland Plant Testing Station, to take up her position in charge of our Biology Laboratory. Her area of work covers turfgrass disease identification, and evaluation of turf management practices on disease development. Her team members, Kathryn Hickson and Clare Kelt, are responsible for pesticide efficacy and selectivity evaluation.

Richard Windows has joined Steve Isaac in Scotland to look after the south of Scotland under Steve's guidance. Richard is working from his regional base in Glasgow, taking up a

new position of Turfgrass Agronomist for South Scotland covering golf courses, bowling greens, cricket grounds and sports pitches including Murrayfield.

Emma Beggs returns to STRI to take up a new position as Regional Agronomist in the North West.

Emma's career at STRI began in 1993 working as a Research Officer in the Department of Soils and Sports Surface Science, then later as a Turfgrass Agronomist in the North East, before relocating to the Wirral. Emma is a keen golfer and a member of Royal Liverpool Golf Club.

Sports Surface Technology MSc to start at Cranfield

Cranfield University in Bedfordshire has introduced an MSc in Sports Surface Technology to start in October 2001.

The first of its kind in Europe the programme will equip students with the scientific principles and management expertise to design, construct and maintain natural sports surfaces.

Students will also carry out an industrial-based research project with sports clubs and organisations in the UK.

The statement from the University states that the course has been designed for graduates who have good numeracy skills but no previous knowledge of soil science, turf grass agronomy or business management is necessary.

Innovative puncture prevention solution from Seal-a-Wheel

Ever since the advent of pneumatic tyres, the benefits have often been overshadowed by the implications of punctures.

Damage to greens, downtime, high call out and repair charges can now be virtually prevented by the use of a newly formulated Puncture Preventative Tyre Sealant called Seal-a-Wheel.

Awarded the International European award for quality in Paris, the water-soluble sealant takes minutes to install and will not damage tyres, rims or grass. Once installed it will provide ongoing protection

against continuously occurring punctures, for the life of the tyre.

When a foreign object penetrates a tyre while it is in motion, air inside the tyre rushes to escape.

Interlocking fibres along with grouting agents are immediately forced into the hole sealing it with a permanent flexible gator.

Seal-a-Wheel is available in 1 litre bottles and 25 litre drums. A calibrated, high performance applicator pump is also available - no need to fully deflate the tyre.

For further information telephone: T.S. Supplies Ltd 0114 2440834



MASCOT
SPECIALITIES

Microbial Biostimulant

activate

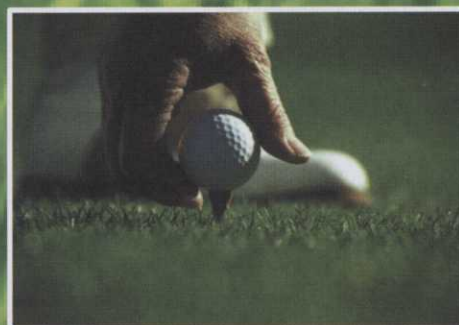
The peak of fitness for sports and amenity turf.

Research has shown that by stimulating the microbes in the soil, significant improvement in growth and vigour of turf grass can be achieved

Activate has been specially developed to provide the vital carbohydrates needed to maximise soil microbial activity, and provide increases in shoot and root growth.

Key benefits of Activate

- Contains simple sugars providing carbohydrates for microbial growth.
- Contains plant growth hormones which are important in root development and general growth.
- Contains soil penetrants to maximise uptake.
- Improves water holding capacity of the soil and drought tolerance.
- Contains a range of trace elements improving turf health.
- Improves seed germination and turf crown establishment.



For further information on this or any other Rigby Taylor product please contact our sales office

 **FREE 0800 424 919**

Rigby Taylor Limited

Rigby Taylor House, Garside Street, Bolton, Lancashire BL1 4AE
Telephone: (01204) 394888 Facsimile: (01204) 398379

RT



Become associated with one of BIGGA's Flagship Events

An environmental Partnership ...

"Respect for the environment goes hand-in-hand with human well-being and indeed sporting excellence. This is certainly true for golf in which harmony with nature is part of the game's heritage and its enjoyment. Golf is a great opportunity to serve as a role model for good environmental practice and I urge you to seize this opportunity."

Jacques Santer, Past European Commission President

Hankley Common, Lindrick, Temple and The Dyke golf clubs are all proud to have won the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition over the last four years.

It is a competition of undoubted significance within golf and a growing significance within conservation circles - you only have to listen to Dr Keith Duff, Chief Scientist with English Nature and a principal judge of the competition, to appreciate its growing importance.

Another indication came in 1998 when the prizes were presented by Royal golfing enthusiast, The Duke of York, while the R&A, the governing body of the game has provided funding for the competition. A book highlighting the excellent work of clubs who have emerged with credit in recent competitions is also currently in production.

Managing Director of Amazone UK, Rod Baker was the brainchild of the competition, having launched it in 1995, and before BIGGA's involvement he had crowned Purdis Heath and Ridding Park Golf Clubs as the first two winners.

Amazone remained a joint sponsor of the competition and Rod its most eloquent supporter, always on hand to make impassioned speeches on the subject of the environment and golf's positive role in promoting it at the presentations, but last year he took a well deserved early retirement and Amazone's support for the competition retired with him.

BIGGA is therefore looking for a partner to ensure that a competition which enjoys a high media profile and which has captured the imagination of golf clubs the length and breadth of the country and helped raise the standard of environmental management of golf courses, can continue to thrive.

If you or your company feels that it wishes to be associated with the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition as a co-title supporter, the Association would be delighted to hear from you to discuss the matter.

Please contact Neil Thomas
Executive Director of BIGGA
Tel: 01347 833800



Above: David Ansell, Head Greenkeeper of the Dyke Golf Club, near Brighton, pictured with his winning team and the BIGGA Golf Environment 2000 trophy

"It is right environmentally for us to protect this great legacy that we have got. If we abuse it we will only be sorry later."

Jackie Stewart,
Three-times Formula 1
World Champion

"Golf Greenkeepers appreciate the precious landscape features and wildlife habitats. For centuries they have helped preserve and restore the magic of the beautiful living countryside on British Golf Courses."

Malcolm Peake - Course Consultant at former winning golf club, Temple.

"To change what nature has done to a piece of property over the years is very stupid and is probably one of the most difficult things you are going to do because you are going against the grain. You cannot plant a different type of grass or different types of trees that are not indigenous to an area and are not used to that climate, it just doesn't work properly."

Nick Price, Former Open Champion and World Number 1 Golfer

Below: The Dyke GC, near Brighton, winner of the 2000 BIGGA Golf Environment Competition



"I use one criteria when judging a golf course which is; 'Would what has been done here convince a sceptic?'. More often than not, yes is the answer as more and more golf courses manage their courses in an environmental friendly way."

Dr Keith Duff, Chief Scientist with English Nature and competition judge.

CGSA trip thanks 1

Just a short letter to thank both Neil Thomas and BIGGA for the part they played in the forming of the delegation of the 10 lucky individuals who were selected to represent the Association at the CGSA Show & Conference in Vancouver and who were sponsored by Bernard and Company.

I think that the exercise was extremely successful from all points of view and I hope that many more greenkeepers get the opportunity to visit our counterparts from other countries and gain valuable knowledge of how others manage their golf courses and resources in different parts of the world.

Many contacts were made and friendships formed and not just in Canada but also among the party from the UK.

Everyone in Canada was extremely friendly and made our albeit short stay a very enjoyable one. Both Peter Hampton and Sam Mclean should be commended for their hospitality as should Stephen Bernhard for agreeing to sponsor this wonderful trip.

Thank you BIGGA for making this possible, for without being a member of our association, this would not have been possible at all.

Peter Lacey, Pennard GC

CGSA trip thanks 2

I would like to take this opportunity to thank BIGGA and Bernhard and company for their support and sponsorship of my colleagues and myself, for the trip to the CGSA and WCTA. This was an absolutely wonderful trip which was made possible by the generous support of Bernhard and company. Apart from the excellent Trade show and seminars which had been very well organised, there was also a tremendous social programme of Salmon cruises and banquets etc.

Also Vancouver is a wonderful city to visit, with ski-slopes, science museums, Stanley Park, Grouse Mountain, a fantastic harbour and shopping centre. But the highlight of the whole visit for all ten of us was the new friends and contacts we have made in Canada. The hospitality was second

to none with three course Superintendents taking the time to allow us all to view their courses, which were all in great condition, and taking us sightseeing and helping to cement ties in our own industry. Hopefully we will all be able to do the same whenever a group of Superintendents from anywhere in the world come and visit us.

Once again I would like to thank our very generous sponsors Bernard's, Sam Maclean and Peter Hampton of Bernard's, who helped us gain so much from our trip and Michelle Morley, of Bernard's, who organised the whole trip for us. Last but not least my nine fellow colleagues for all their help, in making this a great trip.

Antony Bindley
 First Assistant, Kirby Muxloe Golf Club

YOU'VE GOT MAIL!

If you've got an email account, and want to keep up to date with the latest news and events from the turfcare industry, drop us an email, and we'll add you to our ever increasing list of online subscribers. We'll then inform you of any forthcoming features and events via email.

Simply send an email to:

updates@bigga.co.uk

quoting your name and Membership number, and we'll do the rest - it's that easy!

Clarification over mailing of Greenkeeper International

How pleased I was to read last night that a fellow member (in a far-away land!) gets his magazine in the middle of the month.

I live in Margate, Kent, and my magazine turns up on the last day of the month. Why? Why? Why?

G. Mills, Chestfield GC, Whitstable

Editor's Note: Sorry that you had to wait quite so long for your February Greenkeeper International.

The fact that it didn't arrive until the end of the month suggests a postal problem as you should have received it within a day or two of February 19 which was the date billed in the January issue. I'm pretty sure the member in the far away land will have had to wait longer still this time.

Canada thanks 3

May 1, on behalf of the Northern Region, thank Bernhard & Co for allowing us the privilege of attending the recent CGSA Conference in Vancouver, Canada.

The experience of exchanging views and ideas with Canadian Green Keepers was most rewarding. The concerns on golf course management were not too dissimilar to ours. We try to achieve near perfect results in the same way as they do.

Without Bernhard & Co and BIGGA organising this trip we would not have made new connections and new friends nor had the opportunity to promote BIGGA on the world stage where it so rightly belongs.

Thank you once again
 We remain yours in golf.

Anthony Davies and Jimmy Richardson
 Northern Region

Canada thanks 4

I am sure that I can speak for all the delegation, that we found the trip to Canada most informative and have come home with a broader view to greenkeeping.

Also the friendships made during the week with the Canadian Superintendents and our own delegation, will I am sure continue for many years to come, hopefully many more BIGGA members will be able to benefit in the way I have from the visit which was made possible by Bernhard & Company's very generous sponsorship.

I have arranged to give a presentation of the trip at the Section's October meeting, which will be held at China Fleet Golf Club.

Many thanks

Richard Whyman,
 Bude and North Cornwall GC

Canada thanks 5

On the behalf of the South East delegates for the Canadian International

Turfgrass Conference in Vancouver. We would like to thank all involved from Bernhard and Company for making possible such an educational and enjoyable trip. It is a trip that all 10 UK delegates will never forget. We all have wonderful memories of the trip. We must not forget to thank all the Canadian

Superintendents for their wonderful hospitality. But a big thank you to Sam and Peter from Bernhard's for looking after us so well in Canada.

Tom Smith & Raymond Day
 South East Region

This month, BIGGA'S Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, comes in to land after a particularly hectic month, and delivers some important Education and Training updates

Education and Training roundup

This has been a busy Spring for the Education and Training Department, following up on the Learning Experience, completing this year's series of Education and Training Courses, attending a wide range of Seminars and conducting computer training courses.

I have driven almost 3,000 miles on BIGGA business since January so if you have tried to contact me and had no success then you know why. This month is destined to be no less hectic as I have to fit everything into two weeks before I depart for Antigua.

You've got mail!

If you've got an email account why not send an email to the education department, where we can place you into our exclusive education email address book. We can then keep you up-to-date with education news and events as they happen.

Send an email to:
 education@bigga.co.uk
 ken@bigga.co.uk
 sami@bigga.co.uk

BIGGA Essay Competition

How would you like to have an extra £500 to spend on Christmas this year?

All you need to do is: Write between 1500 and 2000 words on 'Poa Annua, friend or foe' and submit your entry to reach BIGGA HOUSE by October 31, 2001. There are three categories:



1. Golf Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers and their deputies.
2. Assistant Greenkeepers and Students aged 25 and over.
3. Assistant Greenkeepers and Students aged 25 and under.

Send your completed entries to Essay Competition, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Airedale, York, YO61 1UF

The Learning Experience 2001

If you missed the National Education Conference or Seminar Programme in January, at Harrogate or if you want to see and hear the presentations again, you can discover what happened by purchasing a video of the event.

Education Conference Videos all sessions £80 including VAT and postage

Education Conference Videos individual sessions £22 including VAT and postage

Seminar Session Videos all sessions £80 including VAT and postage

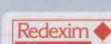
Seminar Session Videos individual sessions £22 including VAT and postage

Individual presentations £10 including VAT and postage

Please note that the Keynote speech by Richard Noble is not available. Contact Sami at BIGGA HOUSE for an order form, or visit the BIGGA website, where you can fill out an order form online. Further details can be obtained from education@bigga.co.uk



The Fund provides the key to the future for greenkeeper, golf club and game. Individuals and companies can join the Golden Key Circle and Silver Key Circle. For details, please contact BIGGA on 01347 833800



A guide to 'on the job' training

Regular readers will remember that I wrote an article last year about On the Job Training. Most training that takes place on the golf course is 'on the job' with many Golf Course Managers already running training sessions for their staff and, in some cases, assessing competence on the completion of training. As many people seem to have missed the article it is reproduced below.

What is involved in 'On the Job Training?'

The first thing to ask is What do my staff need to know? This involves the use of a technique known as a Task Analysis. This simply means breaking the job down into its component parts and may be simple or more complex depending on the job. For example, Cutting a new hole is a straightforward process which requires few decisions except where to cut the hole. On the other hand, applying fertiliser can require a number of decisions to be made eg, when, how, what, why.

There are some basic steps that you need to take when you are conducting a training session. These are:

Introduction

1. Put your staff at ease. Conduct training in comfortable surroundings (if possible). Encourage them to ask questions and take part in any discussions. Let them know that training is taking place and not assessment.
2. Tell them why the training is taking place and how your training session relates to other training sessions and other jobs.
3. Check what they know already and identify gaps in their knowledge and skills.
4. Get them interested by explaining why the training is important.
5. Show them all the new tools, equipment and materials that they will use and give them a list of 'buzz' words.

Content

Show your staff how to complete the task, using the procedure that you identified in your task analysis.

Put all of the component parts into context and try to give your staff a mental picture of what is required.

Explain the critical points as you progress.

Keep checking that they understand.

Show staff how to do the first stage of the job, stressing key points as you progress.

Let staff practise the first stage and make sure that they can explain their actions.

Continue until each stage is mastered.

Let staff complete the whole process, giving feedback and encouragement where needed.

Conclusion

Summarise the whole procedure

Issue any notes, manuals, operating procedures

Point out the best method of doing the task and why

Review the required performance in terms of time, standards and safety requirements

Check if there are any questions

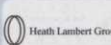
If all of the above seems to be common sense then think about what can and does happen in training sessions or, far worse, in the use of untrained staff. How many of you have been told to 'Go out and cut the first three greens' when you have not been trained on the mower, do not know the height of cut, do not know what to do if players approach, have not been given health and safety brief etc?

Golden Key Circle Company Members

Company	Tel: Head Office
Amazon Ground Care	01579 351155
Bernhard and Company Ltd	01788 811600
Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd	01428 661222
Gem Professional	01254 356611
John Deere Ltd	01949 860491
Hayter Ltd	01279 723444
Kubota UK Ltd	01844 214500
Massey Ferguson (AGCO Ltd)	02476 851292
PGA European Tour	01344 842881
Rain Bird	01273 891326
Rigby Taylor Ltd	01204 394888
Scotts UK Professional	01473 830492
Textron Turf Care	01473 270000
The Toro Company/Lely UK	01202 319987

Individual Members

Mike Eastwood, J H Fry, J H Greasley, David S Robinson, Stuart Townsend



Silver Key Circle Company Members

Company	Tel: Head Office
Ernest Doe & Sons	01254 380311
Health Lambert Ltd	0113 246 1313
Ocmis Irrigation	01460 241939
Sisis Equipment Ltd	01625 503030

Individual Members

Clive A Archer, John Crawford, Bruce Cruickshank, Douglas G Duguid, Alan Holmes, Iain A MacLeod, Robert Maibusch MG, Richard S Mullen, Elliott R Small, Steven Tierney, Raymond J Warrender, WJ Rogers, Kenneth Jones