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DERMATITIS AND ECZEMA

BIGGA'S Health & Safety series produced by Xact



Dermatitis and eczema are debilitating, painful diseases. Those affected need time off work to allow their skin to heal after every bout. Dermatitis caused by work activities is known as Work Related Dermatitis, WRD.

WRD is one of the major occupational skin diseases, caused by a person coming into contact with a hazardous agent(s), sensitisers or substances that de-fat the skin. The terms dermatitis and eczema are often used interchangeably but are caused by different reasons: Dermatitis: an inflammatory condition of the skin caused by outside agents - Often resulting in irritation, redness, cracking and blistering; Eczema: a common itchy skin disease characterised by reddening and blister formation, which may lead to weeping and crusting - Outside agents do not usually play a primary role. Eczema is due to ones' genetic make-up.

The treatment for both conditions may therefore be different. WRD is caused by the skin coming into contact with: chemicals; (e.g. wet cement); frequent contact with water for long periods of time; biological agents (e.g. plants); physical agents (e.g. vibration); and mechanical abrasion (e.g. abrasive substances). It can occur in two different forms: Irritant Contact Dermatitis (ICD) and Allergic Contact Dermatitis (ACD).

ICD - a local inflammation of the skin. It can develop after a short heavy single exposure (acute) or be due to repeated and prolonged exposure (chronic) to hazardous agents, including chemicals. In some cases, more than one agent will be involved, e.g. water and detergents. Once the exposure is controlled and the skin allowed to heal the dermatitis should not recur.

ACD - develops in stages. The reaction begins with a process called sensitisation. Sensitisation starts when an allergic substance (e.g. chromium in cement) penetrates the skin. The process can last from days to weeks. When a sensitised person is re-exposed to the substance it will trigger an allergic reaction causing itching, pain, redness, swelling and blisters on the skin. Once sensitised, the allergic reaction is likely to remain with the individual for life. The severity of the reaction may increase with decreasing amounts of the allergic substance which may require people to change occupation if too severe. If further contact is prevented, the level of sensitivity may gradually decline.

Practical action is the key to preventing WRD:

Find out the H&S hazards associated with each of the substance/product used in the Club. Identify whether these carry warnings signs/hazard information. You can find this information on product labels and/or in Safety Data Sheets. Frequent contact with water (wet working) is a major cause, also some substances (e.g. oil water emulsions) may be generated during work and can cause WRD.

- Introduce control actions to reduce contact between the substances and those using them. These can range from stopping using the substance to the last resort of protective clothing (PPE).
- Selecting gloves is a complicated process. Seek the help of a reputable PPE supplier.
- Make sure employees: are instructed in safe working practices; use controls provided; are trained to correctly use equipment/the use of protective equipment.
- Employees should know how to check their skin for signs of dermatitis and understand the benefits and limitations of skin care creams.

New Products



WASP

The latest formulation for all Turf seeds developed and applied in Germany - WASP (Water Absorbent Seed Process.)

This innovative new technology provides the complete supply of water and nutritious elements to the seedling. A water reservoir, which is created all around the seedling, ensures permanent humidity and thus will not become dry! Moreover this coat contains an initial start up amenity fertiliser, humic acid and an activator for the roots of the plant.

i Hurrells Seeds (Hurrell & McLean Seeds Ltd) on: 01377 271400.



High quality even germination levels

SKID-STEER LOADER

The new S100 skid-steer loader from Bobcat meets a market need for a compact, limited weight skid-steer loader that can work in tight spaces and is easy to transport.

i www.bobcat.com



DITCH WITCH SKID STEER

The Charles Machine Works, Inc, manufacturer of Ditch Witch® underground construction equipment, has released its most powerful and productive mini skid steer to date. The Ditch Witch SK650 is designed to be more efficient and accomplish more tasks than any mini skid steer in its class.

i 01792 895906
or visit: www.ditchwitchuk.com



A CLEAN SWEEP

Turfmech has launched a pedestrian greens sweeper, designed for fast, effective collection and removal of hollow cores and scarified material from golf greens and other fine turf surfaces.

Known as the SQRL, the greens sweeper was designed and developed at Turfmech's Hixon, Staffordshire manufacturing centre.

i 01889 271503
or Email: sales@turfmech.co.uk



EXPANDING RANGE

A new range of mid-sized Kioti compact tractors with engines from 35 hp to 45hp and either hydrostatic or mechanical transmissions are now available in the UK from Rustons Engineering.

i 01480 455151



COMPREHENSIVE NEW GUIDE

Vitax introduce their new, quick reference pocket guide to line marking, covering everything from five-a-side football to discus and hammer.

The new guide has been designed to be used with the company's Topline System of advanced marking machines and concentrated marking liquids. It includes information regarding the three sizes of football pitches, featuring dilution rates at three different walking speeds and the amount of line marking liquid required. Also included are detailed scaled diagrams of sports pitches, running tracks and other athletic events.

The Line Marking Guide is free, anyone wanting page copies should log on to:

i www.vitax.co.uk/downloads.asp



NEW ATTACHMENTS

A new range of accessories are now available for use with Etesia's latest Hydro 100 Diesel ride-on rotary. Specially produced for Etesia by Buckinghamshire-based R T Machinery Ltd, these additions provide some highly cost effective turf care options (patents pending). Once the universal carrier (RTM Fitting Kit) has been workshop-fitted on the rear of the tractor, any of the interchangeable rear-mounted attachments can be removed or added in minutes via a simple two-pin fixing. No special tools are required. The new range includes: RTM Stripe-It; RTM Drag-Brush; RTM Rear-Rake and Front Bull Bar.

i 01926 403319
or Email: sales@etesia.co.uk.



ADD A TOUCH OF GARLIC!

Manufacturers of the Garlic Barrier range of products, have launched the Aston® Garlic Turf product. This is suitable for golf course greens, tees, fairways and also amenity grass areas. Aston Horticulture's products are made from food grade natural aqueous extracts of garlic, which are both bio-degradeable and safe to use. Harmless to the environment, the public need not be excluded from treated areas and there are no harmful effects on wildlife. Treated areas become odourless within minutes.

Regular use throughout the course stimulates growth, vigor and tillering, helping to resist the adverse effects of stresses due to drought and unbalanced nutrition.

i Aston Horticulture Ltd
on Tel: 0870 350 6250

HEATH MAINTENANCE

Helping heather to flourish and look its very best has long been an expensive and time consuming challenge for turf managers on golf courses and heritage sites.

A pioneering system devised by Wiedenmann UK in consultation with grounds managers and Wiedenmann dealer Ernest Doe and Sons now ensures the beauty of heathlands can be restored and enhanced.

i 0141 8143366
or visit: www.wiedenmann.co.uk



A Wiedenmann Super Pro TXL 1.8m side discharge rotary mower seen here linked to a Wiedenmann MCS XP 1500 collector

RANGE EXTENDED

Joining the extensive range of STIHL Protective Equipment (PPE) this year: new boots, trousers and amenity wear promote comfort, safety and style for the outdoor professional.

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or visit: www.stihl.co.uk



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The new Avant 500 side arm flail from Ryetec has been designed to operate in situations where space is limited.

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Letters

LOST WEEKEND

It is a sad time for me, as I draw into my 80s and see my old greenkeeping friends like Willie Ritchie pass on to, we hope, The Happy Golfing Ground.

I was Secretary of the BIGGA West Section for 12 years in the 60s. Willie, if I remember rightly, was Secretary of the North, which in those days did not stretch beyond Dundee.

I am remembering the North Section's Annual Dinner and Whist Drive. I was invited on many occasions but I only managed one year. It was a change from the dinner speeches all the other Sections held in those days. I have to say, Willie had done his homework to make all of these occasions a great success and a boost to the Section's funds. BIGGA held its Annual Golfing Outing all over Scotland. This year I refer to 'The Scottish', which was held at Royal Burgess Golfing Society of Edinburgh.

I had been in Willie's company most of the day. As James McCormack said in Willie's obituary - May issue of Greenkeeper International - Willie, like myself, liked a dram or two or three – need I go on? Willie got his train to Dundee from Waverley Station, as I did for Lenzie. We got a taxi to the station as Edinburgh is a foreign city when one has had a 'few'. I saw Willie on his train – anyway he said it was his train, the next day I got a telephone call. The voice said 'That you, Cecil?' I recognised Willie's broad North East accent, 'Aye, it's me – that you Willie?' 'Aye it is. You put me on the wrong bloody train.' 'No I did not. You said it was your train.' 'Ah, well I'm in Aberdeen, Cecil. Have you got ma clubs?' 'No Willie, you had them when you got on the train.' 'Well, av nae got them noo.' 'Perhaps you left them on the train.' 'Ah, well we will have to wait an see.'

The next Monday I got another telephone call – 'That you Cecil?' 'Yes' – 'It's me, Willie. Ah thought I'd let you know I've got ma clubs. I put them in the left luggage in Aberdeen.'

There must be a moral to these telephone calls. Knowing Willie and being a kindred spirit, who was caring, I only hope wherever Willie is he hasn't lost his clubs.

Cecil N George

DERRICK 'ALF' BURKIN

9 August 1924 to 19 June 2007

In the early 1970's Alf worked at Pease Cottage Golf Club, helping to build one of the first courses to use creeping bent. He then went on to Sandy Lodge in Middlesex where he worked closely with Jim Arthur. From there he moved to Farnham Park until 1978 and then to Bishop's Stortford in Hertfordshire. He ended his greenkeeping career at Ely City in 1985.

Alf is survived by his wife, Irene and his two sons, one of whom – Bob – maintains the greenkeeping tradition at Chippenham Golf Club.

Yours faithfully

Bob Burkin

CARNOUSTIE 2007

Just a quick thank you for all your hard work prior to and during the Open.

The team from HQ were fantastic, all the bases covered and running like clockwork, fantastic!

As for the support team, everyone was in good spirits and relaxed throughout the event, which again is down to the superb organisation.

*Yours Sincerely
Gary Cunningham
Course Manager
Trentham Park Golf Club*

SOMEBODY UP THERE LOVES HIM!

It is difficult to predict weather. It is even more difficult to predict Scottish weather. Whoever is in charge of the Celestial Heavens' weather must like Harry Diamond.

On Sunday, July 8, we had another perfect golfing day at the Belleisle GC for the Harry Diamond Memorial Quaich. As usual, golfers were falling over themselves to play in this Stableford Competition. I was told a week before that 117 persons had submitted their names, including a number of greenkeepers. Even with these high numbers wishing to play, no one was turned away. On many of the tees, eight golfers were standing at 9am awaiting two loud blasts on the klaxon horn. Golfers with an A on their number played off on the first blast of the horn, then everyone joined in to enjoy this now ever popular family event. Even with the good number of golfers out in every part of the course, there were no hold ups. The course was presented to the highest standard by Kevin Johnson and his greenkeeping staff. I was told that the club members were jubilant with the transformation of the course since Kevin took it in hand just over a year ago. Before the presentation of the Quaich and prizes, we had all the usual niceties of free pints of beer etc. and raffle tickets were given free to let everyone have a chance of winning a prize.

Harry's family were involved in the organisation of the event. "Les Girls" – Harry's daughters and grand-daughters – were to the forefront in assisting with raffle tickets and the distribution of prizes. Two of Harry's brother, Neil and Hugh, were helping with final details before the presentation.

This year, the Quaich was won by K Gimson, J Dewry, Elaine Webster and D Dunlop. Harry's wife, Jessie, presented the Quaich to the winners. They got a small replica each to keep. The trophy stays with the Diamond family, whom I am sure will keep it in excellent order until July '08.

Harry's family wish to thank all the sponsors and those who donated prizes, also those who assisted in organising and running this ever-successful tournament.

Cecil N George



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To learn more about Primo MAXX please go to www.primomaxx.co.uk or telephone Scotts Professional on 0871 2205353.





OH YOU LUCKY LOT!

Boy! Are you a lucky bunch. The prospect of playing over either Dundonald Links or Kilmarnock Barassie would be enough for most people, but this year's BIGGA National Championship, sponsored by Kubota, means you playing on both of these superb links courses.

With Dundonald Links – Loch Lomond's younger sister – hosting the opening round on Monday, October 8, and Barassie welcoming us for the second and final round the next day, competitors are in for an absolute treat.

Dundonald was designed by Kyle Philips, who also has Kingsbarns and The Grove on his CV, and is regarded as one of the finest new courses, not just in the UK, but worldwide. Barassie is a final Open Qualifier and holds a prominent position in the list of the UK's top 100 courses.

Known initially as Southern Gables, Dundonald Links' the change of name came along when Loch Lomond purchased the course four years ago and it takes the name back to that of the original 18th century nine hole course that sat on the site and which was turned over to farmland as part of the Second World War effort.

It features Kyle Philips' trademark rolling greens with serious run-off areas to punish the wayward approach and at 7300 yards off the back tees it is a formidable test of golf.

"My desire was to create a championship Ayrshire-style links course that felt and played as though it was an old rediscovered course, by integrating newly constructed features with existing site features," explains Kyle, whose affinity with Scottish golf is widely known and admired.

The par-3s are particularly impressive. Tough, interesting and each completely different from the others.

Course Manager is Frank Clarkson who has been at the course since Loch Lomond's purchase of it.

"The entire team is really looking forward to BIGGA coming for the National Championships. They are really pumped up for it," said Frank.

"Since I arrived we've worked hard to develop the finer grasses and establish it and we feel that we are now at the point where we can show it off. There is so much potential here but we feel we have a lot to live up to as we are surrounded by so many wonderful golf courses in this part of Scotland.

"We can't wait to show our course off to the BIGGA members," he added, with real relish.

Once you have pitted yourselves against Dundonald the Championship Banquet will be held in the traditional Barassie clubhouse where you will catch a glimpse of the task that will await you the following morning. Barassie is tough and typical of what Scottish links golf is all about – large undulating greens, deep bunkers and doglegs but for a course that sits on the outskirts of Troon what else would you expect?

The club is 120 years old but hasn't stood still in that time with nine new holes built in recent years, including the superb par-3 4th and the double dogleg par-5 8th.





The Club, which was joint host of the 2001 Amateur Championship with Prestwick, will again be a final qualifier for The Open in two year's time when the Championship returns to Turnberry for the first time since 1994.

Course Manager Brian Finlayson is delighted that he will be welcoming so many fellow greenkeepers to his club.

"It'll be a nice change to have 80 greenkeepers commenting on the course rather than the 500 I normally have!" he joked.

"After the June we've had we've got a very green links at the moment but we have been known to have good weather in September and October so hopefully we'll have more of a true links feel by the time the Championship comes around.

"We are a really good test of golf," he added

Brian was also delighted that Kubota had become the title sponsor of the event

"We're a Kubota course with four pieces of their kit," he revealed.

"Kubota are delighted to be sponsoring this year's BIGGA National Championship," said Sales & Marketing Manager Dave Roberts.

"The golf course industry has been very good to us over the past 30 years, and we have always enjoyed an excellent relationship with BIGGA as a Golden Key member, so the opportunity to sponsor this prestigious event was too good to pass up and an easy decision to make. We look forward to meeting up with friends old and new in October at these fabulous host courses, and of course, to a highly competitive tournament," said Dave.

Look out for the application form in this month's magazine and hopefully we'll see you in Ayrshire!

TALKING HEADS

FEATURE

| | WHAT IS YOUR PHILOSOPHY ON OVERSEEDING? | AT WHAT TIMES OF YEAR AND WHAT FREQUENCY DO YOU TEND TO SEED? |
|--|--|---|
|  <p>Name: Robert Bayliss Club: Weymouth GC, South West Position: Head Greenkeeper</p> | <p>I have always believed overseeding to be worthwhile. If weed seeds can germinate and establish even in a tight sward then it's fair to assume that desirable seed will do well also. Close examination of the turf a couple of weeks after overseeding will show that germination is invariably successful. The problem is how many of the seedlings become established and make it to maturity, especially on golf courses that are subject to so much wear these days. As your readers are well aware that depends on a number of factors but as a general rule the size of green and number of available hole positions play a big part. The more you are able to spread the wear the better the success rate.</p> | <p>We generally overseed in the autumn as part of the end of summer renovations. A light scattering of seed mixed in with the top dressing aids germination. Some heavily worn areas may require further attention if we have a particularly bad year.</p> |
|  <p>Name: Andrew Fillery Club: Alesund GC, Norway Position: Course Manager</p> | <p>I agree whole-heartedly with overseeding and try to seed two or three times a year.</p> | <p>I seed in early May and mid-July depending on the weather. Dormant overseeding takes place in September/early October.</p> |
|  <p>Name: Charles Edgar Club: Castlerock GC, Northern Ireland Position: Course Manager</p> | <p>Overseeding is an important part in any greens maintenance programme. A lot of research and testing has been carried out to provide finer, disease tolerant grass species which can be introduced into golf greens. The more we can reduce the dependency on chemicals and fertilisers to produce fine putting surfaces, the better. If we can successfully introduce new species through overseeding into our sward, we are on the right track.</p> | <p>I tend to favour September - the earlier the better. It gives the new seedlings a better chance to establish before Autumn. The seasons seem to be mixed up so who knows what October or November might bring. Frequency would depend on weather conditions throughout the growing season - being a links course, a very dry summer coupled with an increase in play, the greens can be in need of rejuvenating. Generally I would hollow-tine and seed every two years with direct seeding in between.</p> |
|  <p>Name: Stuart Hogg Club: St Annes Old Links, North Position: Course Manager</p> | <p>I overseed to enhance the quality of the sward composition.</p> | <p>Usually I overseed in August/September time, depending on the weather and tournaments.</p> |
|  <p>Name: Stuart Greenwood Club: North Berwick, Scotland Position: Course Superintendent</p> | <p>Regular overseeding is important to keep improving grass quality which, in the long term, will lead to better and more consistent surfaces.</p> | <p>I tend to overseed from early August through to late September. I find I have more success as the ground temperature and moisture levels are better for germination.</p> |
|  <p>Name: Simon Forshaw Club: Jack's Point, New Zealand Position: Course Manager</p> | <p>We overseed in order to dense up our plant cover, help aid the fight against poa invasion and other weeds (as we are a newly seeded course). It also helps in our management in high traffic areas, while hopefully speeding up the recovery.</p> | <p>Our main aim this coming growing season, will be to do maybe two overseeding operations. We will do our first overseeding once our soil temperatures reach double digits, which for us is around mid-October. We have found in the past when we were in the construction/sow, that it was better to hold off and wait to gain a far better result. And again, overseed in autumn depending on our traffic damage. We have found in our case that our browntops have a far better strike rate in autumn than spring, if it is in non-irrigated areas.</p> |
|  <p>Name: Sean McDade Club: Sandwell Park, Midlands Position: Dep Head Greenkeeper</p> | <p>The necessity to over-seed falls into two factors, 1. Renovation, or, 2. Change of species. The first should be considered as an indicator that there is an underlying problem. That said, over-seeding is very useful in renovation of scarring from disease, what ever the time of year or causing pathogen. Secondly, the change to Agrostis in Poa dominant swards is nigh-on impossible, treat Poa well and it will serve you admirably. However, with multi-cultured swards over-seeding can prove very fruitful in preventing the invasion of Poa annua.</p> | <p>Such is now, due to climate change, dependant upon the prevailing conditions. I have sown seed in January with great success, and yet in May have failed! I am of the philosophy that even if conditions are not perfect, that the seed will remain within the sward and germinate when good and ready.</p> |

OVERSEEDING

| WHAT SEED MIX DO YOU USE? | DO YOU USE ANY TRICKS IN THE PROCESS OF OVERSEEDING TO MAXIMISE SUCCESS? | WHAT DO YOU DO IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND WEEKS TO ASSIST SUCCESS? |
|---|---|--|
| <p>Mainly bent for greens in the past which over the years has shown a slow improvement in the make up of the sward.</p> | <p>Bulking the seed up with seaweed helps to give a nice even spread immediately prior to top dressing.</p> | <p>Apart from ordering in supplies in good time not much really. I think the after care once the seed has germinated is the crucial factor.</p> |
| <p>I use Pan A4.</p> | <p>No tricks, I just use an overseeder.</p> | <p>I use some sustain – 464 and 400.</p> |
| <p>80 % Fescue 20% Bent. I tend to work on the top five varieties from the STR1 seed guide.</p> | <p>Not really. I try to be as accurate as possible with distribution, get as much seed as possible into hollow-tine hole through brushing in various directions. I would put on a light application of lawnseed approximately one week after so there is nutrient available for the new seedlings when germinating - and then of course Pray!</p> | <p>Raise height of cut to 6mm, after top dressing I would use vibrating rollers to ensure good contact between seed and top dressing. Ensure that mower reels are kept sharp to lessen any damage to new leaf shoots.</p> |
| <p>I use pure fescue mixes.</p> | <p>I solid tine with 8mm tines down to 25mm, then use the cyclone spreader to apply the seed. It is then dragged in two ways then finally I apply a topdressing to hold the seed within the holes.</p> | <p>Pray for favourable weather conditions! Seriously, we tend to roll for a few days then apply a liquid seaweed once germination has been seen.</p> |
| <p>I use only fescue mix on all playing surfaces, but also some dwarf rye on heavy traffic areas.</p> | <p>Trying to get seed into existing sward is important - Use of sarel rollers and giving as many passes as possible as well as a light top dressing afterwards.</p> | <p>I try to lift the height of cut a little to give the seed a good chance of germination, and rolling a bit more instead of cutting causes less disturbance.</p> |
| <p>We use 50 % creeping red fescue and 50% chewing fescue on our fairways, and New Zealand brown tops on our greens/tees and roughs. In roughs we are slowly increasing our fescues with the brown tops over time. In our case we find if we don't get any bare areas filled in we find poa invading very fast.</p> | <p>Not really, just work towards preparing seeding conditions if required, monitor soil temperatures and moisture levels, and maybe a little help from some goodies.</p> | <p>Ensure worked areas are protected, monitored and traffic is kept to a minimum. Use a light started fertiliser depending on the situation, adjust cutting heights accordingly, make an effort to try not to have any sharp turns from wheels on maintenance equipment and golf carts. Daily tyre pressure checks. Moving hole cups around for spreading the wear. Tees: keeping divots/traffic confined to one area. Fairways: monitor cutting equipment. Our situation is different, we are a newly developed course that will be going into the wait and see period.</p> |
| <p>On greens: Agrostis ssp. The germination rate I have found to be superb if treated well. On other areas a general mix of Agrostis, Festuca, and P. pratensis works well, but traffic must be kept off during establishment.</p> | <p>There are only 3 tricks: 1. Prepare the ground well by aeration/slitting/spiking. If the seed is not in contact with the soil then put it in the bin. 2. Consolidate the surface with a top-dressing/root zone.</p> | <p>Apply a light dressing of 8/8/8 after germination and mow with a sharp rotary mower for the first few weeks, such mowing prevents plucking-out of seedlings. On greens/scapes, lightly dress such to protect the emerging seedlings. Such will also help to re-tire any discrepancies in the putting surface.</p> |



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The quest carries on



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