

Scotts Debuts First Turf Growth Regulators for Quality, Hybrid Bermudagrass Fairway Turf

MARYSVILLE, Ohio — In a historical breakthrough, The O.M. Scott & Sons Company has registered two turf growth regulator (TGR) products for quality turf. The new products, ProTurf® Turf Growth Regulator Plus Fertilizer for Loam and Clay Soils and Turf Growth Regulator Plus Fertilizer for Sandy Soils, are formulated for use on well-maintained, established hybrid bermudagrass fairways and St. Augustinegrass to reduce mowings and improve turfgrass quality.

"These products slow the growth of the turf for up to 8 weeks and promote prolonged, enhanced greening for up to 12 weeks, through an exciting, new technology developed by Scotts," said Dr. Milt Kageyama, manager of Scotts chemical product research and development.

Dr. Larry Widell, project leader of Scotts TGR research and development, explained the unique advantages these new ProTurf products offer for hybrid bermudagrass fairways.

"They reduce frequency by up to 2/3 for up to an 8-week period; they reduce the potential for scalping hybrid bermudagrass fairway turf; and they deliver better ball playability due to increased density and tighter-knit turf¹.

"Another advantage is that if Scotts® Turf Growth Regu-

lator Plus Fertilizer products are applied to hybrid bermudagrass at the height of the growing season, up to 75 percent fewer clippings will be cut and left on the fairways after mowing, compared to fertilizer-only program²."

Suggested application time is from early June to mid-August. One repeat application can be made after the effects of the first application have dissipated to help control growth throughout the period of greatest growth.

According to James T. Fetter, senior marketing manager for ProTurf, these new products will be available in limited markets this year, and expanded more broadly throughout the South in the spring of 1987.

NOTHING ELSE LIKE IT

Before Scotts introduced these products, TGRs had been available for use only on low-quality or hard-to-mow turf areas like roadsides, parks, highway median strips, steep slopes along roads or for *Poa Annua* seedhead control.

These original TGR products allowed for some labor/time/fuel savings, since they did reduce mowing frequency. But none of them were recommended for growth regulation of fine quality turf because they actually stopped growth for a period of time.

When these products were used, the turf looked satisfactory the first few weeks, but as the blades began to age and turn brown, the turf turned an unacceptable color because no new growth had been generated to replace the older leaves. Another problem was that when the TGR wore off, the turf tended to go through a period of surge growth.

The Scotts TGR products address each of these problems. First, because they contain ProTurf Fairway Fertilizer plus a unique active ingredient, the turf continues to grow but at a greatly reduced rate, resulting in a darker green, more dense turf. Once the growth regulator wears off, there is little tendency for turf surge growth — just a gradual increase in growth at a normal rate.

FUTURE POSSIBILITIES

The development of new TGR products is just in its beginning stages. Scotts new technology research is presently identifying other potential uses of TGR formulations, such as a combination preemergent herbicide and fertilizer with TGR, for use on golf courses and other highly maintained areas throughout the United States. ■

¹ Results may vary according to weather conditions, soil types, grass varieties and turf management practices.

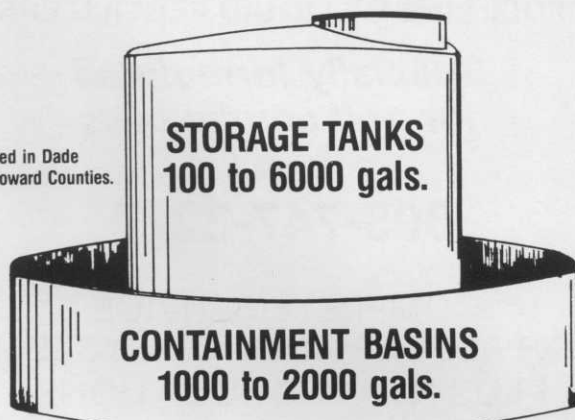
² Slightly different results will occur when TGR product is used on St. Augustinegrass turf.

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