

Brand new crop of fertilizer technology debuts in Dallas

By PETER BLAIS

Several fertilizer manufacturers have introduced new products and technologies they intend to showcase at February's International Conference and Show in Dallas.

Scotts Pro-Turf division has spent millions of dollars in recent years on its **Triaform** and **Poly S** technologies.

Triaform encompasses a family of controlled-release fertilizers the company claims offers more efficient nitrogen feeding than traditional urea formaldehyde and IBDU fertilizers. The new technology replaces long-chain, highly water-insoluble nitrogen polymers with shorter chain, controlled-release methylenediurea (MDU) and dimethylenetriurea (DMTU).

The result, according to Scotts, is extended, controlled-release feeding (for eight to 12 weeks) with quick greening, uniform color response, and improved density without surge growth.

The Poly S technology offers the controlled release performance of an advanced polymer coating at a price comparable to traditional, sulfur-coated urea fertilizers. Compared to SCU fertilizers, Scotts says, Poly S offers a comparable price, better nutrient efficiency, environmentally compatible performance and user-friendly application designed for a broadcast spreader.

Poly S has been the fastest-growing fertilizer technology in Scotts' history, according to ProTurf Field Sales Manager David Heegard. Smaller fertilizer particle sizes will be introduced in 1994, allowing Scotts products to be used on bermudagrass greens cut as low as 1/4-inch, he added.

Lebanon Turf Products' research indicated a need for a homogenous line of fertilizers that lets superintendents choose their nitrogen source. The result was **NX-PRO**.

It is available in everything from greens to fairway grades, with either SCU or Nutalene as the nitrogen source. First introduced six months ago, Lebanon plans a major kickoff at February's show.

"It's sold beyond our most optimistic expectations," said Paul Grosh, Lebanon's sales and marketing manager for the Professional Group. "Superintendents like the spreadability and even nutrient distribution."

Pursell Industries will introduce its new TriKote slow-release technology. The process is an advancement on existing coating technology, according to Tim Lacy, director of sales of professional products.

As its name implies, TriKote

O.M. Scotts, Lebanon, Pursell and Vicksburg weigh in with new products

offers triple coating protection to safeguard against excessive granule cracking during handling. A thin layer of sulfur is coated over a fertilizer granule. Then, two separate, but reactive, monomers are sprayed on, creating a hard shield for added durability. The result is fewer broken coatings with a significantly increased amount

of SCU retained in slow-release form.

TriKote comes in three sizes, allowing it to be used on greens, tees and fairways, Lacy said.

"We've been manufacturing it for about two months now," said Lacy from his Sylacauga, Ala., office "It's been very well received so far by superintendents."

The family-owned company

also offers POLYON polymer coated fertilizers with true osmotic release properties.

Vicksburg Chemical Co. recently introduced **K-Power**. The Memphis, Tenn., company claims it is the first line of potassium nitrate fertilizers for turfgrass in controlled release forms. The K-Power line features **MultiCote**, a polymer coating designed to feed turf a steady and continuous supply of nutrients, according to Vicksburg Market Development

Manager Michel Larisey. This will help superintendents who have used soluble potassium nitrate to fertigate greens, but have been unable to apply it elsewhere.

K-Power includes four varieties of potassium nitrate fertilizers: greens and tees, fairways with Multicote, combination, and water soluble with selected micro-elements in a dry crystalline form.

Each one reportedly encourages stronger turf that is better able to resist fungus, insect attacks, extreme temperatures and various stresses.

FOR 10 YEARS, SUPERINTENDENTS HAVE BEEN USING IT TO RELIEVE HEADACHES.



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