

# How do turf colorants save money?

Awareness of the benefits of using turf colorants has been growing over the past several years. Many golf course superintendents have been successfully using the products for years, and more are integrating them into their programs with greater frequency. The practice that has been standard among superintendents is now popular in lawn care and professional sports turf management as well.

Why have turf colorants grown in popularity? Many golf course superintendents and other turf management professionals are finding new ways of using the products to meet the challenges that come with limited budgets. Growth in this trend is largely due to application efficiencies associated with turf colorants, especially when compared to the cost of overseeding programs.

## HOW DO THEY COMPARE?

For years, many superintendents have invested in costly fall overseeding programs to keep their course green through the winter when warm season grasses are dormant.

The direct costs associated with annual overseeding programs include seed, fertilizer, water, pest control products and the hours of labor it takes to prepare and convert the course to winter play conditions. An indirect cost of the programs is revenue losses from decreased rounds-played and clubhouse purchases.

With just one application of most turf colorants, you get instant green color

without all of the additional inputs. That means less money spent on labor, fertilizers, pesticides and water costs.

Products like Becker Underwood's Green Lawnger turf colorant provide a solution for an attractive surface that is affordable and non-invasive, with little to no disruption of golf play.

## EASING SPRING TRANSITION

Consistent turf color and an extended golf season are additional benefits exhibited by the application of turf colorants.

The elimination or reduction of seeding perennial winter turf grasses provides a clear agronomic benefit to the quality of warm season turf as it emerges from dormancy the following spring. Dark colored turf readily collects and holds solar heat, improving the transition out of cool-season dormancy. Warm-season grasses like Bermuda find spring emergence easier with less competition from cool season turf types.

Becker Underwood makes Transition, a dark turf colorant with UV heat-absorbing technology that helps elevate plant and soil surface temperatures. Higher temperatures can slow the onset of dormant turf as cold weather approaches and reduce damage to new growth during the temperature variations that come with the freeze-thaw cycles of spring.

## SPOT TREATMENT

Using turf colorants for spot treatments can help disguise damaged, worn

or even diseased turf throughout the year. They can be especially useful in drought situations when water availability is limited.

Some turf colorant products improve accuracy and convenience of herbicide and fungicide applications. Using a colorant with these products can help achieve uniformity, while adding a long-lasting green color.

Unlike other spray colorant products that quickly fade in sunlight, Becker Underwood's Vision Pro application aid produces a natural-looking green color on turf that resists the adverse effects of prolonged UV light exposure.

## TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Application rates vary by brand, so you may need to experiment to get the color and the consistency you want. Multiple applications will enhance the turf's appearance and color longevity.

Some brands of turf colorants eventually fade to an unattractive blue color. Becker Underwood's Green Lawnger brand colorant products with ColorLock technology produce a long-lasting, healthy-looking, rich green color that will not fade to blue.

When using turf colorants, avoid overspray on concrete, masonry, or other objects you do not want to color. Remove accidental overspray with a water rinse prior to drying. Rinse spray tanks, spray nozzles and screens thoroughly with water immediately following use of turf colorants.