

## In Bounds-

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magazines for "Super" products that when applied in tiny amounts would produce amazing horticultural results. The claims looked too good to be true and at the time I considered them snake oils.

Today however, there are many Superintendents who have included similar products derived from sea weed extracts in an effort to take their turf to the next level. This has triggered my curiosity as more and more of my respected peers tried out the benefits of these products from the ocean organics. Nope, not new to the market, but processed seaweed are not yet part of my beneficial "soup."

Sea weed extracts are cold pressed to squeeze out beneficial goodies such as the hormones cytokinins and auxins in a

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liquid for packaging. Cytokinins are important in the physiological processes of cell division and cell growth and auxins act like a plant's nervous system reacting with other plant hormones to decide growth responses to external conditions.

**Cytokinins also regulate antioxidants and anti-senescence chemistry inside the turf plant.** The antioxidant enzymes are active in heat stress relief; acting just like they do in our bodies, they limit damage to cells. Anti-senescence chemicals limit premature aging. Combined these plant growth substances improve summer stress and thus make the plant resistant to diseases, high temperatures, drought and direct UV damage.

**Are seaweed extracts the "miracle cure"?** During a time when fast and firm describe optimum playing surfaces and expectations demand turf managers to be at their best, it is only logical to look into alternative options to achieve these goals and limit dramatic inputs such as super low mowing and continuous hand watering. This summer, after some more research, I am going to dabble in the new, old science.

I am also going to continue with my naturopathic health practices. The amount of material I pass after first cleansing my colon and then cleansing my liver is UNBELIEVABLE. The scientist in me has dissected one of the largest "stones" (gross) and the mash of crystals and dense unidentifiable junk justifies a maintenance program in the future. Never would I have thought that an age old natural practice would allow me to feel so good.

By thinking outside the box, doing research and visiting with credible sources I have gained an appreciable amount of knowledge... information I can use to improve both my personal and professional life. -JM

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