

Sports Turf Topic:

Too much or not enough

Stress, stress everywhere. At this time of year, the turf plant is under a multitude of different stresses. These stresses can be biotic, caused by natural pests such as diseases, insects or weed competition or abiotic, physical elements such as temperature extremes, drought or flooding, compaction, etc.

Two major abiotic stresses which affect the root zone during the summer are the opposite extremes of drought and excessive moisture. Either of these stresses can result in a loss of root mass.

The loss of roots generates additional stress in the turfgrass plants, making them susceptible to injury from other biotic pressures such as disease injury, or slow recovery from insect damage.

Applications of plant hormones such as cytokinins and humic and fulvic acids can give plants the ability to override the stress caused by drought and flooding, although these conditions, sufficiently severe, can still cause injury.

However, even if injury is not avoided altogether, biostimulant applications containing plant hormones and humics, such as provided by Focus® and Launch®, will help plants cope with root injury, extending sufficient vigor during crisis to allow turf managers to respond by modifying conditions through irrigation or drainage, thereby preventing excessive injury.

**Condition your turf with Launch® and Focus® Turf Biostimulants.
For tough turf that won't buckle under. Even after the game.**



"In 1999 our old push-up greens were torn out and totally reconstructed to USGA specs. We sprigged with TifEagle and within four weeks we could have played on them, thanks to weekly apps of Launch® Biostimulant at a half rate. After six weeks we switched to Focus® half-strength sprayed at 2 week intervals. Thank God we did, for during last year's drought we totally ran out of water. In May and June, the greens went unwatered for 13 days in 85 and 90-plus F. temperatures! But the roots were there and, within 2 weeks of receiving rainfall and irrigation, the greens were back in great shape!"

**Larry Smith, GCS
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Always read and follow label directions.



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