

Sports Turf Topic:

Biostimulant Basics – What and When

Turf managers need to determine their objectives in order to determine what biostimulant components are required and when they can best be utilized in the management program.

The timing of the biostimulant application can dramatically affect the results achieved. The natural growth cycle of the turf is an important consideration. Applying biostimulant material to improve the natural growth of the turf usually requires different timing than an application made to solve a problem. For cool season turf, fall and spring applications will accent natural root growth. Applications to warm season turf are best made during the summer growth period.

Applications intended to solve problems, must take into consideration the cause of the problem. If the problem is a natural stress which can be anticipated, such as summer drought or excessive heat and humidity, optimum results are obtained with applications made prior to the occurrence of the stress. Turf growing in shade, for instance, can be assisted by a biostimulant application to enhance chlorophyll production under low light conditions.

While biostimulant applications can not eliminate stress conditions, they can dramatically lessen the damage incurred, as well as speeding up recovery.

Specific cultural practices can also be augmented with biostimulant applications. Aeration, for instance, can be enhanced. Seeding, sodding and sprigging results can be dramatically affected.

The use of biostimulants when seeding can provide a variety of benefits. Germination times are reduced with biostimulant applications. Natural plant hormones also affect speed of establishment and coverage. Biostimulants can be applied to the soil, directly over the seed, or added to hydro-seeding mixtures.

Biostimulant applications have been shown to dramatically increase root mass which can mean quicker sod knit-down and sprig development. Root mass will correlate with the turf's ability to resist and recover from environmental stresses. In fact, root mass is regarded as the easiest measure of the success of a biostimulant program. Core samples are simple to check and will provide the turf manager with assurance that his turf is ready to withstand the many pressures to which it is subjected during the growing season.

Biostimulants are tools that can be used to enhance the vigor of the playing fields under the care of the sports turf manager. Where good agronomic basics are in place, biostimulants can take your turf to new levels of beauty and durability.

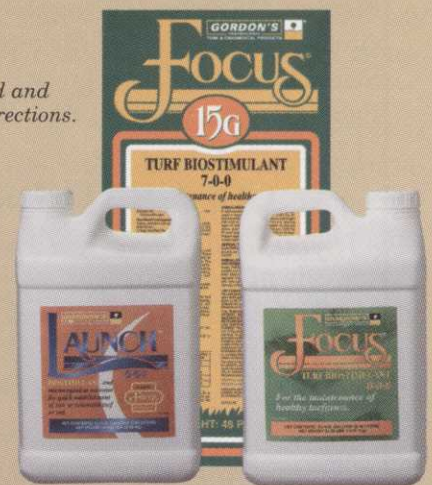
Condition your turf with Launch® and Focus® Turf Biostimulants. For tough turf that won't buckle under. Even after the game.



"Due to stadium construction, portions of our field were sodded only a week before the opening game. I applied Launch® and the sod was knit down and playable. The massive root development I get with Launch enables me to maintain my entire bluegrass field at 1.25 inches mowing height. I haven't had to use a lot of fungicide, and it really gets hot down here in the stadium."

Trevor Vance
Kansas City Royals

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