

## Polymers make life easier for turf managers

by Bill Stinson, Aglukon, Inc.

The early-morning sight of a beautifully-kept golf course can be breathtaking. The contrasting green colors of its fairways, greens and tees and its carefully chosen trees and shrubs do not, however, tell the whole story. The golf course superintendent must painstakingly plan, coordinate and take care of endless details every day to make sure that his turf and course will meet high expectations.

The superintendent deserves a lot of credit for maintaining such good looking grounds, which in turn keeps club members happy and management successful. He knows though, that beautiful turf and grounds don't just happen. He makes it happen by choosing the right people for his team, the right equipment, the correct seed and chemicals and the best irrigation program.

### Meeting the challenge

The ability to foresee possible problems and keep turf in useable

condition is a challenge. That's why the turf manager of today is using more sophisticated tools, more scientific chemicals, better seed varieties and more modern irrigation systems. These advances in the green industry represent a concerted effort to help



Polymers allow superintendents to reduce irrigation frequency and water stress to turf.

the landscape manager enjoy a better return on his efforts.

Such an addition to his arsenal can be Viterra Gelscape or other water-absorbent polymers.

Over the years, these products have become a trusted friend of the turf manager who is seeking consistent, more uniform germination and faster turf establishment with less maintenance and better durability and appearance. The ability of these polymers to absorb hundreds of times their weight in water—to be released as needed later—has given the turf manager the opportunity to reduce irrigation frequency and eliminate turf water stress on high or exposed greens. They also help the plant better use ground-applied fertilizer and chemicals.

Easy-to-use polymers like Viterra, applied as a blend with seed during aerification or verticutting, encourage strong, healthy root and blade development on hard-to-maintain areas. This takes at least some of the pressure off the turf manager, who strives to maintain beautiful, playable grounds at all times.

### Hydroseeding turf

The very special characteristics of polymers that provide proper and consistent moisture to seeds and their ability to absorb, retain and re-release fluids many times over, was discovered by hydroseeders. Hydroseeding contractors now recognize how essential these products are for their operation; they have been able to reduce or eliminate costly call-backs caused in the past by a lack of germination.

Turf managers have seen their downtime due to clogged equipment reduced and, because turf establishes faster, less time is spent waiting for payment.

Contractors know how and when to lay sod. They also know that poor soils and a lack of proper irrigation will result in costly call backs for the replacement of "browned" areas. Polymers, applied at the time of soil preparation, give the landscaper an edge for quicker, better survival of their sod, faster knitting and decreased call-backs. Consequently, they can finish their jobs successfully by ensuring that the expensive trees and shrubs they plant will survive and withstand the harsh summer and winter temperatures. **LM**

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