

PRODUCT-OF-THE-MONTH

Bioinoculant adds N to soil

TurfTech II, from Soil Technologies Corp., is a nonburning, odorless soil bioinoculant for managing soil fertility.

TurfTech II consists of dormant microorganisms in a wettable powder.

TurfTech II can be used on any turfgrass species. When applied to the soil, the legume-like microbes in TurfTech II come to life and begin producing organic compounds, including nitrogen from nitrogen fixation, polysaccharides and plant growth hormones.

According to the company, The chemistries delivered by TurfTech II produce the effect of a true biofertilizer. In research around the world, the cyanobacteria in TurfTech II have been shown to

add up to 1/2 to one lb. of nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. per application.

"It does what it's supposed to do," says Bob Cohen, president of The Green Scene in Sun Valley, Calif.

For years, Cohen struggled to keep clients' lawns lush in spite of drought and heat stress. He thought just plain water would do the trick. He thought wrong, he realizes.

Cohen then tried TurfTech II in May 1992. "We loaded our 100-gallon tanks with 1-1/2 teaspoons of dechlorinator and two ounces of TurfTech II; we cut back the urea (the low-biuret type) from 40 lbs. per half-acre down to 10 lbs."

Cohen adds a half-pound of iron sul-

phate and a half-pound of 13 percent iron chelate for deeper color and quicker response.

"In the spring and fall," says Cohen, "we add some soluble P and K as well."

"...the material seems as safe as can be," reports Cohen. "Since we gave up wetting agents and humus extracts, the complaints of 'burn' have dropped to nil. In fact, nearly all of our 'poor color' complaints turn out to be dry areas caused by poor irrigation coverage."

Cohen reports that TurfTech II brings moderate green-up upon application (partly to the credit of the urea). "But instead of tailing off after a month or so, the green keeps on going. We service every eight weeks, and we haven't had a complaint about our lawns not staying green through the service period," says Cohen.

Cohen says ornamentals also respond well to the product.

"Seems that any planting that keeps the soil surface covered will respond well to TurfTech II treatment," says Cohen. "Without that typical N-surge of chemical fertilizers, the plants seem to seek out the 'right' combination of N-P-K to perform seasonally. And I believe we are also bringing the pH of our alkaline soils down with the built-in humic acids."

Soil Technologies Corp. is headquartered in Fairfield, Iowa.

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The test plot on the left shows initial green-up after TurfTech II application. No fertilizer was applied to the plot.

PRODUCT SHOWCASE

Compost bio-excelerator speeds humus production

Espoma Compost Bio-Excellerator makes composting easy, and helps speed the production of rich, fertile humus.

The bio-organic formula in Espoma Bio-Excellerator contains billions of microbes cultured for composting, as well as an energy source. The microbes in Espoma are especially cultured to thrive in moderate and high heat environments.

Natural organic compounds are included to neutralize the organic acids produced during composting.

The organic compost produced with Compost Bio-Excellerator can be used in flower beds, vegetable gardens, lawns and

potted plants.

Detailed instructions as well as additional suggestions for successful composting are contained on the bag.

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Fertilizer company specializes in municipal, utility clients

MBT Fertilizers, Inc. is a contract service company that specializes in providing its Hou-Actinite natural organic fertilizer to municipal, utility and corporate clients. The Milwaukee, Wisc.-based company provides material handling, transportation and packing services.

Hou-Actinite has a guaranteed analysis

of 5-2-0, with two percent iron content.

The product is available as tiny pellets about the size of a pin head. The company says Hou-Actinite is non-burning and slow-release.

The company's new operating system guarantees the product particle size to be less than #6 mesh and greater than #35 mesh.

Plans include providing a product size of smaller than #6 and greater than #16 mesh for special industrial use.

Hou-Actinite meets or exceeds all EPA #503 regulatory requirements for Exceptional Quality Sludge.

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