

product in-depth

Soil Tech Products Boost Turf And Cut Costs For Golf Course Superintendents

Since 1983, Soil Technologies Corp. has been a leader in the production of biological plant growth products and bio-pesticides for turfgrass. Beginning as a research and development (R&D) company, Soil Tech has worked with researchers on 4 continents to develop numerous unique microbial and botanical formulations that boost turfgrass and cut costs.



Soil Tech's TurfTech Bio has been solving tough soil problems for golf courses since 1986. This triple-action bio-fertilizer cuts fertilizer needs, reduces soil compaction, and suppresses turfgrass pathogens. The easy-to-use formulation consists of nitrogen-fixing cyanobacteria that restore the soil's biological fertility, beneficial bacteria to inhibit fungal development, and polysaccharides that improve crumb structure of the soil. "These polysaccharides form larger soil aggregates which appear to be beneficial to the soil," claims Iowa State University microbiologist Dr. Fred Williams. His research documented a structural change in soil treated with the product.

Soil Tech's TurfTech Bio-Min provides superintendents with a unique problem-solving tool that reduces costs and boosts turf. The easy-to-use formula consists of a concentrated blend of 1) volcanic minerals (over 60 elements) that help to remineralize soils, 2) nitrogen-fixing cyanobacteria that restore the soils biological fertility so less nitrogen fertilizer is needed, 3) beneficial bacteria to inhibit fungal diseases and increase turf rooting, and 4) polysaccharides that improve crumb structure of the soil and help reduce compaction and soil hardness. The combined effect of these technologies is that treated turfs show improved growth and require fewer inputs to maintain. TurfTech Bio-Min is a powerful tool that has helped hundreds of superintendents keep their courses in top condition, even in the worst of circumstances.

According to Steve Nichols, vice president of sales for Soil Technologies Corp., "Our TurfTech products have provided thousands of superintendents with science-based solutions for nearly 25 years. Our approach has always been to provide maximum product results by supplying mega-doses of beneficial bacteria that work as bio-fertilizers and soil conditioners. We probably wouldn't still be in business if we had ever compromised our product quality by cutting corners. When superintendents find out that TurfTech results exceed their expectations,



then they stick with the program. There is really a cumulative effect with biological products that adds up to big cost savings and better turf quality when they are used over several years in a turf management program like ours."

St. Louis, Missouri is known in the golf course maintenance industry for having some of the toughest summer conditions in the country. According to Richard Hynson, GCS at Boone Valley Golf Club in Augusta MO., "Saint Louis is known for having very brutal summers. Couple that with the fact that I grow 40 acres of bentgrass on my golf course and it's safe to say that I have my hands full."

"After I was introduced to TurfTech Bio-Min by my Soil Tech consultant, Barbara Agee, I started using the product to help me cut down on the need for synthetic fertilizer applications during the summer months. I first gave the product a try in 2004. Using TurfTech Bio-Min is one of the best decisions I have ever made. Not only do I get a nice sustained growth response when it is applied, but my clay soil has become restructured and is now something I can work with. I have indeed reduced the need for granular fertilizers which saves my golf course money, and there is a noticeable decrease in the amount of thatch in my bentgrass. TurfTech Bio-Min helps me to actually grow grass in the summer instead of always just fighting to keep it alive."

In addition to his experiences with Bio-Min, Richard has also utilized other Soil Tech products in his maintenance regime at Boone Valley. He comments, "I also use other Soil Technologies products like Pond Kleen, Soil Success-Sol, and Thatch Relief, and every one of them works as claimed. Pond Kleen keeps my lakes incredibly clear. Soil Success-Sol (mycorrhizae) pushes the root system in my greens after aerification which helps to speed-up their recovery. I use Thatch Relief on my greens and tees to reduce puffiness caused by excessive thatch build-up."

With more than 20 years experience in the golf maintenance industry, Richard has some advice for other superintendents. "I would advise any Golf Course Superintendent to research these products from Soil Tech and if you have a need that these products could help you with, then by all means do so. You will not be disappointed," he states.

Since 1983, Soil Technologies Corp. has been a pioneer in the production and marketing of bio-rational pest

management and plant growth products for agricultural and horticultural crops. Through product innovation and licensing, Soil Tech has created a unique line of minimum-risk products for growers, landscapers, and golf course turf managers. Soil Tech supplies its bio-pesticides, bio-fertilizers, and soil conditioners in the USA, Europe, Latin America, and Asia. With over 25 years of experience in the business of biological pest and soil management, Soil Tech products offer unmatched efficacy and safety with a continuing commitment to produce only ecologically safe and effective technologies.

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