



# Bayer

## Bayer to announce new innovations at BTME

*Dr Colin Mumford, Bayer's technical manager, will be talking about more developments in turf fungicide innovation, in his seminar at BTME in January.*

*Talking to Greenkeeper International, Colin explains this new chemistry has been 'in the making' for the past 15 years, which gives us an insight into the research and development process that brings new products to market. He also give details of the CLP label changes we can expect to see and discusses the growing importance of environmentally-friendly disposal of chemicals.*

### **Bringing new chemistry to market**

The process of developing each new active ingredient often includes the analysis of up to 100,000 potential active substances, extensive trial work and around €300 million.

Those attending BTME will have the opportunity to see some of our work and, at the same time, gain valuable insight into the research that's carried out to develop any new product.

Currently in the final stages of the regulatory approval process, the latest Bayer fungicide innovation will see a whole new chemical class introduced to the sports turf sector with the advent of a new active ingredient. This new fungicide will also use the unique Bayer StressGard™ Formulation Technology which has been proven to be both effective and reliable in enhancing disease management and stress reduction, and to improve playability and performance within our existing fungicide product, Interface®.

Always aiming to provide turf managers with solutions to maximise disease control, while at the same time minimising the risk of disease resistance, this new product will be a useful addition to a turf manager's toolbox. Another key driver in product development is ensuring there's little or no impact on the environment.

Bayer is a strong advocate of integrated disease control programmes and firmly believe this approach is key to addressing resistance issues, and the wider future of turf management.



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## PhytoBac

Alongside bringing new chemistry to market, waste management and environmentally-friendly practices are also high on our agenda. These topics are not only an important issue on today's greenkeepers and turf manager's minds, but they also apply to all industries using chemical control for the management of pests and diseases.

We're working proactively to reduce waste in all areas of our business, from recycling packaging to the management of chemical effluent. Developed by our French counterparts, the PhytoBac system is a new introduction to the UK turf and amenity sector, and one very well received by those who attended the recent STRI Research event.

PhytoBac provides a more environmentally-friendly option for the removal of chemical residues from your tank washings post application than current methods. The PhytoBac process offers an efficient system for the collection and reduction of pesticide residues in water.

PhytoBac is a free standing enclosed bio-bed system made up of a network of connected tanks, with a sump pump pushing the tank washings into holding and filtration tanks. Inside the tank are two layers of barley straw and soil, creating a microbial community that then feed on the active ingredients. It's a modular system, meaning additional modules can be added to increase capacity if and when they're needed.

There's no drainage, but once the levels of active ingredient have significantly decreased, the clean water is gradually released to the atmosphere through evaporation.

It's worth noting that although the process can take several weeks to complete, it's possible to continue adding tank washings as it's a continuous, ongoing process. Inevitably, the straw bedding will break down and need replacing year-on-year and it's important that the soil used is relatively free draining, this will ensure that the flow of water through the system is not impeded which would otherwise reduce the efficiency of the process.

We're taking the environmental impact of these much needed chemical products seriously and are always searching for ways to reduce any impact. Best practice dictates that where there is no need for a chemical to be



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applied, then it shouldn't be. PhytoBac enables greenkeepers and turf managers, to remove and reduce residues in a much more controlled and efficient way.

## **CLP label changes**

Over the next two years fungicides and other chemical products will undergo a number of changes to the labels that appear on the product packaging. This follows the United Nations' Global Harmonisation System (GHS) for classification and labelling of chemicals.

This system introduces revised hazard symbols, signal words, hazard statements and precautionary statements, with the aim of creating a globally-recognised system.

The CLP (Classification, labelling and packaging) legislation incorporates all industrial and household chemicals, including those products used within the turf and amenity sector, such as fungicides, herbicides and insecticides.

It's important to emphasise the updated labels don't reflect any change to the products themselves. The risk that products pose to turf managers and greenkeepers, to the consumer, or to the environment hasn't changed in any way: it's purely the labels themselves that are being updated.

However, outside these CLP changes, it's important to remember that, as part of good practice, you should always continue to review product labels in order to keep abreast of any additional changes.

Users of any chemical products will now see a selection of nine new hazard pictograms, depicted within a red diamond, which replace the original square symbols with an orange background.

There are new signal words which replace those currently on chemical labels, with 'Toxic' and 'Harmful' being replaced with 'Danger' and 'Warning'. A new disposal phrase will also be introduced to the labels.

In terms of timescales, all products leaving the manufacturer or the marketing company must be labelled in accordance with the new CLP regulation by the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015. However, distributors and users have until the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017 to use up stock which still holds the old labelling.



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Overall, we see BTME being another successful, interactive and interesting event for all involved, with legislation changes and new product developments just two elements of this ever-evolving industry. It's a great opportunity for all those involved in the turf and amenity sector to continue their professional development and learn about all of these industry changes.

