



# Bayer

## Eliminate stress and disease to achieve a perfect smooth green sports pitch this summer.

Whether your aim is to manage the perfect golf course, or a smooth green sports pitch, you'll face a year round battle to keep weeds and disease under control, and maintain your green in tip-top shape for both spring and summer play.

Dealing with persistent weeds and pests, and quickly reacting to adverse weather conditions, form a key part of the turf manager's role today. Now that 'spring has sprung', it's important to start thinking about turf management from the roots up.

Stress, in particular, has a knock-on effect on turf quality, and of course foot traffic can cause a lot of damage. But weather extremes, such as heat and drought, or frost and very cold conditions, along with continual mowing, also take their toll.

Diseases such as Microdochium patch (commonly referred to as fusarium), red thread, dollar spot, anthracnose, leaf spot and rust can present different challenges for managers, and make an impact on the overall look of the turf. Ultimately, substandard turf can affect players' performances.

Among the most damaging diseases of turf grasses is fusarium. Once it takes hold, it can be very difficult to control. Although this fungus can strike throughout the year, it's most common in autumn and spring. Dr Colin Mumford, Bayer's technical manager, says that fusarium can appear before, during and after snow cover. After snow melt the disease can have a pink edge due to the pink fungal mycelia, which gives it the common name of pink snow mould. Grey snow mould can also be found after snow melt. "Fusarium often starts with small brown or yellow patches which can look greasy or watery, and it can feel slimy to the touch. Small patches enlarge rapidly, and join up together, killing the grass and large areas will die away."

Common pests also play havoc on pitches and greens. Chafer grubs have a devastating effect on the smoothest greens, not just because of the damage done by the grubs themselves, but also by birds and mammals that dig holes in the green to get to the grubs.



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One of the best ways to help to keep your turf healthy is to make sure it is in great condition by giving it the best chance when it comes to standing up to stress, pests and disease.

Help is at hand in the form of Bayer's Interface® product, a new-generation turf fungicide that incorporates the unique combination of Stressgard™ Formulation Technology.

The result of 15 years of dedicated research and development, with the product developed specifically for the amenity market, it's Bayer's most powerful and effective turf fungicide yet. Interface® contains a combination of the active ingredients iprodione and trifloxystrobin, and co-formulants that perform specifically in unique turf stress conditions.

Interface® offers turf professionals control measures against the six main turf diseases, resulting in improved playability and visibly healthier turf.

With constant competition to keep turf smooth, green and patch-free, managers are continually looking for solutions to help them to reach a new standard in turf protection, and Interface® can help them to achieve those standards.

Colin said that the pressure is on for turf managers because members want 100% grass cover that not only looks nice, but also performs well. A dip in the canopy, and bald, uneven patches will affect the roll of the ball.

"People pay their green fees to play and they expect the greens to be in perfect condition. Bald patches mean a poorer putting surface on the green. If members are not satisfied with the course then they are likely to go somewhere else, which will directly impact the number of green fees you have and the reputation of the golf course.

"Weather monitoring is a necessary part of a greenkeepers maintenance regime, but historically greenkeepers have not had accurate weather forecasting tools. State-of-the-art technology means that there are lots of different apps and accurate weather forecasts out there now.

"It's important to inspect your greens every day and react straight away. Early control is key. The sooner you treat the problem the easier it will be to minimise scars and lasting damage.



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“If you react too late and are left with scars and bare areas, they will eventually grow out with rhizomes and/or stolons (depending on your turf’s composition) filling the gaps when the growing season begins, but you may have to endure the unsightly scarring throughout the winter months when there is little or no growth.

“From an environmental stewardship point of view it may seem like a good idea if you decide not to treat until you see obvious signs of disease, but you could get caught out by a late winter or early spring cold snap meaning you can’t treat the turf when required. Therefore you may end up making multiple applications to combat something that one earlier application would have controlled.”

Interface® can be used at any stage of disease and at any time of the year, making it a convenient and flexible option.

“Interface® has got more than one mode of action. Most other fungicides only attack in one way. Interface® with Stressgard™ Formulation Technology also offers improved drought tolerance and better protection against UV stress,” adds Colin.

“Stressgard™ Formulation Technology has improved the efficacy of the active ingredients, which give a synergistic effect, and that’s improved the uptake of the product by the plant. This, in turn, makes it a more efficient fungicide.”

A series of trials in 2013 brought positive feedback, with many turf managers finding that as few as two treatments eradicated disease problems.

Nearly all of the trials proved to be huge success, with many users seeing great results after two applications. By masking areas of damage, allowing the green to be repaired without looking unsightly, also proved popular.

Brian Carr, Head Greenkeeper at Leeds Golf Centre, tried Interface®, and reported excellent results. He said the disease (fusarium) cleared within a week.

“I really can’t fault the product; it’s fantastic. I had great results, and the members were happy too as the greens looked great. It’s the best fungicide I’ve ever used (been in the business 35yrs), and I can’t sing its praises enough. It does exactly what it says on the tin,” says Brian.



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There was no evidence of the disease returning and no scarring or damage, he said, and that has meant there was great playability on the greens after use.

Joe Bedford of Hollystown Golf Club trialled Interface® on rust. He also had a small amount of anthracnose due to heat, and time of year, plus green stress.

“Interface® helped in relation to drought resistance – it helped during that hot dry period to maintain the turf’s moisture. Greens sprayed stayed green and healthy during the whole trial,” says Joe. Joe believes that new products such as Interface®, which take a ‘multi-pronged’ approach to disease control, seriously help keep the greens in good condition.

“With preventative, curative and eradicated properties, Interface® can be used at times of the year when other products can’t, and therefore acts as a core rotational product for turf professionals,” adds Colin.

## **What is Stressgard™ Formulation Technology?**

Stressgard™ Formulation Technology, the unique formulation offered by Interface®, is a combination of active ingredients, inert ingredients and turf specific co-formulants. It is the combination of these which help the product to perform in unique turf disease stress conditions. Stressgard™ Formulation Technology will help to protect your turf, leaving it better equipped to deal with the stress caused by adverse weather, or regular cutting.

## **What does it do?**

- ✓ Plant suffers less disease leading to improved appearance;
- ✓ Better surface performance characteristics (smoothness and ball roll);
- ✓ Superior disease control

