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Managing turf stress is essential during peak playing season

Stressed turf increases the potential risk of fungal turf disease to occur on greens and sports pitches – something Turf Managers will be keen to avoid with the summer playing season well underway.

Turf stress results in poor growth and reduces the grass sward's ability to recover, making it more susceptible to disease threats. "Daily mowing is a key factor and will heighten vulnerability to disease, due to its effect on the plant's ability to photosynthesise efficiently," says Bayer's Technical Manager, Dr Colin Mumford.

"Player traffic, heat, drought, cold and intense ultraviolet light from the sun are some of the other factors which contribute to stress."

He adds that where disease pathogens are already present within the turf, the grass is even more susceptible to the effects of infection. "When a plant's limited resources are being used to fight stress, be it disease stress, environmental stress or wear stress, Turf Managers need a product which will aid recovery and strengthen those natural resources."

Bayer's fungicide range offers both protection from these summer fungal infections, as well as the opportunity for a good rotation as part of an Integrated Disease Management (IDM) approach. "Bayer's range covers three of the five fungicide chemical groups. By switching between the different chemical families, the risk of resilience build-up is reduced and has an excellent fit within an IDM programme."

Someone who is no stranger to the importance of maintaining playability, particularly throughout the peak playing season, is Joe Bedford, Course Superintendent at Hollystown Golf Club, near Dublin. Joe notes that with over 40,000 rounds played throughout the year, they're dealing with high level of play on the greens, so disease control is a top priority.

"We had an outbreak of Rust and Fusarium in June last year, just three weeks before Captain's Day, so we needed something that would treat the problem instantaneously," he says.



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“The course was treated with Interface® and saw nearly complete control of the diseases within 48 hours. The greens had completely recovered within seven days of using the product and impressively the control lasted for seven weeks after treatment,” he comments. “Interface® is going to become our mainstay product in our fight against disease. Interface® is very much a part of our future disease control programme.”

Joe adds that there was visible evidence of improvement of the greens following treatment, “It was incredible how much stronger the grass sward was following the use of this fungicide.”

Colin concludes that in the height of summer, Interface® offers good versatility. “It can be used at any time of the year, so it’s a real staple and is active on six of the most common turf diseases, including Fusarium, Rust and Anthracnose. Its innovative StressGard™ Formulation Technology also boosts the turf’s defences in high stress conditions.

“Our fungicide range, which also includes Chipco® Green and Dedicate® offers Turf Managers the flexibility to draw on the most appropriate product depending on the disease threat, the stage of turf growth and the season.”

