Powered by Acti-Cell Technology® (ACT)

SOIL-PLUS® Reduces Sod Harvest Time (Stanfield, Arizona) USA

ABSTRACT

A 90-day pilot test was initiated on eight (8) half-acre turf plots of several Bermuda grass varieties at Gardner Turf Grass Sod Farm in Stanfield, Arizona.

BACKGROUND

Sod farms are continually searching for ways to improve the root structure and density of their turf. This not only improves the quality of their product, creating increased customer satisfaction, but it also improves the ease of handling and installing their sod. Finding a product that improves the root structure while maintaining profitability is the goal of the farm manager.

TREATMENT

Biofeed® SOIL-PLUS® was applied at a rate of 1-gallon per acre every 14 days by trained personnel at Gardner Turf Grass followed by a normal watering cycle. Standard fertilizers were also applied to the entire farm and the SOIL-PLUS® treated areas were also mowed at the same height and time as the untreated areas.

ACT® is biologically generated using specific organic compounds which are transformed into unique, water-soluble amino acids, enzymes and other beneficial organic compounds through a proprietary process of biological transformation.

RESULTS

During the test period the samples were removed, and chain of custody was monitored. Samples were taken to the laboratory and were deep frozen on a bi-weekly basis. At the end of the 90-day period, the samples were defrosted and washed to remove the soil. Each core sample was marked for identification and the cores were then compared.

The following end-of-test results were documented:

- After 30 days, there was an increase of up to 42% root mass density at sod depth (approximately 2.5").
- After 30 days, the root density at sod depth increased by an average of 32.5% compared to 24% average in the non-treated plots.
- At the end of the 90-day test period, the root mass density was consistently greater in the treated areas with larger, fuller roots present with substantial root hairs visible.
- Soil texture was looser, allowing for improved water penetration and retention.