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One-Year Evaluation of Biofeed Products Applied on Tall Fescue at the University of California, Riverside 1996-1997

In May of 1996, the University of California Riverside began a comparison study to evaluate the performance of Biofeed soil conditioning fertilizers when applied to tall fescue for one year, in terms of visual quality ratings, clipping yields, clipping elemental analysis and root mass density. The chemical fertilizers utilized in this study were TriKote, Turf Supreme, Par EX IBDU, and Nitra King. These are products commonly used on turf grass and are comparable to Scotts Fertilizer.

VISUAL RATINGS were comparable as Biofeed treated turf grass performed similarly to the chemically fertilized turf. Whereas, all the fertilized turf areas performed substantially better than the check. Biofeed treated areas received one-half of the applied rate of nitrogen each month although applied yearly rates of nitrogen were the same for all other turf areas.

CLIPPING YIELDS ANALYSIS showed that the Biofeed fertilized turf produced 12.5% LESS clippings on an annual basis than the chemically fertilized turf during the 12-month study.

ROOT MASS DENSITY samples were taken twice during the study period, in September 1996 Biofeed fertilized turf averaged 5% greater Root Mass Density and in May 1997 Biofeed fertilized turf averaged 3% greater Root Mass Density than the conventional fertilized turf areas.

TISSUE ANALYSIS SAMPLES Taken in May 1997 revealed that the Biofeed fertilized turf contained measurably higher levels of primary secondary and trace nutrients compared to the control and the chemically fertilized turf areas. Researchers stated that this data suggests that the Biofeed treatments allowed the plant tissue to absorb significantly greater amounts of N, P, S, Ca, Mg, Zn, Mn, Fe, and Mo.

This study was conducted to determine if alternate fertilizer products that are designed to supply nutrients, biostimulants and humic substances can perform as well as nationally advertised synthetic brands. The nutrients contained in Biofeed are highly complexed with long-chain carbon molecules to reduce nutrient loss due to leaching and tie-up within the soil matrix. Upon entering the soil, Biofeed fertilizers undergo biological transformation, which converts the applied nutrients into nutrient rich microbial residues that become the preferred food source for healthy plant growth.

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