

Dr John Dempsey discusses the use of Controlled Release Fertiliser on turfgrass at the Royal Curragh Golf Club

Fairway to heaven?

In 2016 a field study was carried out on the 15th fairway of the Royal Curragh Golf club in Ireland. The Royal Curragh is the oldest golf course in Ireland was built in 1853 and can be found about an hour south from Dublin in county Kildare.

The trial was carried out by Dr John Dempsey who is a graduate researcher at the University of the West of England in Bristol. John began greenkeeping in the 1980s and has been superintendent at The Royal Curragh since 1993.

Always with a keen interest in sportsturf education John has undertaken courses beginning with basic greenkeeping at the Botanic

gardens in Dublin to a Honours Degree in Turfgrass science at Myerscough College in the UK. Completed a PhD during 2016 in Turfgrass pathology in the Centre for Research in Biosciences at the mentioned university in Bristol England.

John has conducted independent research on turfgrass disease management for the past 10 years, covering extensively the subject *Microdochium nivale* infection of turfgrasses, turfgrass response to infection and the effect of phosphite treatments on disease suppression, turfgrass growth and quality. John has presented his findings at

numerous conferences and seminars in Ireland, Scotland, France, Germany, Norway, USA and most recently at the Turf Managers conference at BTME in Harrogate last January.

From May to November 2016 a number of controlled release fertilisers (CRF) have been trialed. The objective of this trial was to show that it is very well possible to maintain a steady and healthy turfgrass on the fairways with only one application of CRF. Another point of interest was how the Mivena CRF's Granucote and Granupermanent Universal would perform in comparison with the fertilisers of the competitors.

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