

Blairgowrie Golf Club Thriving on Compost

Blairgowrie Golf Club, boasting two highly-acclaimed championship golf courses, as well as a third "Wee Course" is reaping the rewards of utilising a compost-based divot mix and top-dressing. Having utilised the 80/20 sand/based mix (of which sand makes up 80% v/v and PAS100 quality assured green compost makes up the 20% organic fraction), Brian Scott, Head Greenkeeper at Blairgowrie for over 20 years notes that the product encourages good germination rates and a stable basis for consistent regrowth.



9th tee of the "Wee Course" top-dressed with compost

Up until early 2012, the tees had been top-dressed with pure sand, but in March this year, the compost-based product was applied to the four par 3 tees on the Rosemount course and the positive effects were apparent within days.

Brian notes that the compost mix was, at first, used inadvertently on the tees, which would normally be dressed with pure sand. However, it soon became apparent that the compost-based product was having a "positive regenerating, effect" and the consistency of regrowth on these tees, which tend to require the most attention given the dominance of iron clubs that are used from them, was remarkable. The compost mix is now applied as a top dressing to all tees on the 3 courses, as well as continuing to be used as a divot mix. The typical regime is to patch divots on all tees and fairways 3 days/week and to top-dress the tees 3 times per year.

The costs of the compost compares favourably with the previous product and Brian expects that the use of any inorganic fertiliser can be virtually eliminated on all areas treated with the compost.

Blairgowrie Golf Club orders approximately 4 x 29 tonne loads per annum of the pre-blended product from Forth Resource Management, a leading compost producer that has attained USGA (rootzone) specifications for its product which is screened to 6mm.



Rosemount 17th tee (top-dressed with compost-based mix and divots patched with the product)



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