

Turf Solutions

Primo MAXX Application On Haileybury Cricket Outfield & Squares 2007

Shortly, before the application of Primo MAXX, wetting agent had been applied to the 1st and 2nd team outfield and squares. The over seeding of the outfields, done in early March, had worked well and the sward had plenty of fresh new shoots.

The 1st team outfield is almost always boxed off, however due to some restraints and size of the site, the 2nd and 3rd team outfields are generally never boxed off.

17th April 2007

The chemical was applied on the 1st XI cricket outfield and square, and the 2nd team outfield and cricket square at a rate of 1.6ltrs per hectare.

The washings were sprayed on one half of the 3rd team outfield.

The grass species on the outfields of the 1st and 2nd teams are predominantly dwarf rye grass and fescue, having been over seeded the previous 4 years using BAR 6 (8 bags per year). The squares are dwarf rye and have been overseeded with BAR EXTREME during renovations for the last 3 years.

The 3rd team outfield also has a BAR 7 mixture in the sward as the area applied with the washings is also used by the 1st XI of the football team for training during the Winter months.

The grass height on both the outfields and squares was 14mm:

- TEMP: 17°C
- WIND: Light Easterly
- RAINFALL: None

2nd May 2007

There has been no significant rainfall since the application of Primo MAXX, and the conditions have been much warmer than the seasonal average. The swards on all areas applied have noticeably reduced growth rates compared to other areas of the site.

The most interesting aspect of which was the half of the 3rd team outfield applied with the washings. This area historically grows for some reason faster than the other half of the outfield (possibly a different soil structure?). It is evident when mowing the area that there is now more lying grass on the area that traditionally grows at a slower rate than the area applied with the Primo MAXX washings.

The cricket squares have definitely become a denser, thicker sward.



Growing success

8th May 2007

Since the 5th May there has been significant rainfall - 17mm. The air temperature has dropped considerably aided by a cold easterly wind. However, the areas applied with Primo MAXX have still not grown as fast as the untreated areas, and the tillering, especially on the cricket squares, has now become much more apparent.

16th May 2007

Since the 8th May there has been 45mm of rain. The sward on both the squares and outfield has noticeably thickened. It was hard to comment on whether the growth had dramatically reduced due to the unseasonable weather.

However, we applied the Primo MAXX even though conditions were not ideal at a rate of 900ml per hectare. The rate was reduced from the initial application to see the different reaction if any.

Scotts Effect Iron developmental product was also applied on the main square and outfield (not in the same mix) for the college's most prestigious day of the year, 26th May, at a rate of 5ltrs per hectare. Both the Iron and Primo MAXX was not applied on the strip been prepared for the next cricket fixture.

The washings were applied on the other half of the 3rd team outfield not used for the washings on the previous application.

The grass height was now at 13mm for both the squares and outfield.

- TEMP: 15°C
- WIND: Light South Westerly
- RAINFALL: 8.5mm overnight

25th May 2007

The week leading up to today there has been no rain.

It was commented on by the 1st team cricket professional on the outstanding condition and playing characteristics of the 1st team outfield this year, compared to other years. We feel this is largely due to the increase tightness of the sward, the grass species which was now becoming prominent in the sward after our 4 year over seeding programme of BAR6, and also the use of Primo MAXX. The grass plant was very resilient, durable and resembled a carpet and the squares sward was incredibly thick. This presented a positive problem if there is such a thing. The strip took longer to prepare, in respect of scarifying, cutting down etc., where in previous years you could do 5-6 passes to satisfactorily scarify a strip in preparation for a wicket, we found it was now taking 9-10 passes.

The result however was a belter of a wicket, which stood up well to the fixture, with again favourable comments from the 1st team as well as the MCC.



Growing success

Conclusion

The results this year have been outstanding. We have no hesitation in repeating this regime again next year, but perhaps continue the applications longer through the cricket season and possibly through the rugby season (ends in December), as this year Primo MAXX was not applied elsewhere in the college after the main event, so in hindsight perhaps it should have been applied.

“Having played professional cricket for 13 years I have been fortunate enough to play on the best pitches in the world. I can honestly say that the outfield here at the moment is as good as any I’ve played on.

With our speech day match against the MCC just around the corner ...and the pitch looking in such outstanding condition I only hope our boys can put up a performance to match the quality of the pitch” .

Michael Cawdron (school cricket coach/ex-professional cricketer).



Growing success