

# Double agent solves case for wetting

North shore Golf Club, Auckland NZ

**Wetting agents should be mandatory for use by turf professionals in Australia's dry conditions. To find out why, we went to New Zealand (as you would).**

Many turf and horticultural professionals believe that the use of a wetting agent should be mandatory in Australia's dry conditions for maintaining the soil's ability to absorb water.

Water is a scarce commodity and every drop has to reach its destination. A professional wetting agent decreases water surface tension and aids the successful rewetting of soils.

It eliminates localised dry spots and increases the uniformity of wetting throughout the soil profile to allow for better water penetration and absorption.

That's the textbook version. Now let's see how a good wetting agent works in the real world.

## Into the fast Layne

Layne Young is the course and development manager of the North Shore Golf Club in Albany, Auckland. While the 27-hole course receives good winter rainfall, the summer can be hot and dry. Layne has always used wetting agents for the greens and tees, with good reason.

"With sand based greens and tees we need a wetting agent to get the water evenly across the sand profile. The greens are poa, which stresses very easily in summer, so it's helped by a regular application of a wetting agent."

Up to about five years ago, Layne employed a two-phase renovation program for the greens, applying a wetting agent prior to coring and fertilising. "It used a lot of man power," said Layne. "Now we kill two birds with one stone and it's a lot faster."

Layne is talking about his switch to the wetting agent with a difference: Scotts Hydraflo NPK.

Hydraflo NPK is a 2-in-1 technology that combines a granular wetting agent with a long-term turf fertiliser containing nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium plus other trace elements.



## Less work and quicker results at renovation time

Hydraflo NPK promotes uniform wetting and encourages free drainage to assist the plant in nutrient uptake. It then delivers those nutrients in a slow release form for 6-8 weeks.

"For renovations, Hydraflo NPK is a nice product going into coring," said Layne. "We get good growth and also protection from the agent. We're not seeing as much stress on our greens and we get good recovery. And it's cut down our work."

"Around renovation time you're normally putting a lot of stress on everything, and the secret is to get the greens back from renovation as quickly as possible."

"The members hate coring with a passion. If you can get your greens back to near perfect inside three weeks, it's got to be good. That's the success we've had with Hydraflo NPK."

"Our 2IC loves the product."