

# Time-efficient products, better outcomes

Sandringham Golf Links, Victoria

**Spending less time applying fertiliser sounds good on paper, but how does it work on the green? We put the question to Andrew Wells, Course Superintendent at Victoria's Sandringham Golf Links.**

Andrew says, "When I took up my role at Sandringham, I decided to alter the green's fertiliser to Scotts Sierraform Slow Release High K. In doing so, we achieved several savings and benefits, as well as healthier greens and better appearance as regards to colour. Previous fertiliser practice required the use of a diffuser and would involve three groundspeople for an entire eight-hour day. That's two people applying fertiliser and one watering in."

Since changing to Sierraform Slow Release, he says it now takes just one groundsperson 3.5 hours with a spreader, to fertilise 22 greens, approximately once every 10 weeks.

Because of the reduced fertilising times, costs have been reduced by as much as 25% and staff have more time for other maintenance tasks. The results include happier golfers who are waiting less time for hoses to be moved out of intended lines of play.

Of course, all this comes as no surprise to Scott Kempster, a Victorian representative of one of Scotts distributors, Turf & Irrigation (T&I). "Sierraform is a really good labour saving product. Primarily people have switched to it because of cost – specifically, the savings they can make on labour. They were fertilising every three weeks, but now they're fertilising every eight to ten weeks. They're also getting a better result on their turf. You also don't get any surge growth. It's a nice constant and even release. The grass grows nice and steadily."



Water restrictions have led many golf courses to increasingly turn to effluent water for irrigation. This poses a challenge for superintendents who have to cope with increased salinity that, amongst other things, can prevent turf from pulling moisture into its roots. A lot of fertilisers, like urea, have quite high salt indexes. Sierraform has a very low salt index.

Scott adds, "People sometimes balk at the initial price of Scotts products, but they are smarter products – when you do your sums, using Sierraform actually works out cheaper over the course of the year."



Scotts Sierraform Green Complete 22+2+8 shown actual size. Scotts Sierraform with Contec technology, is an homogenous fertiliser, expressly formulated for use on greens. It combines fast-working nitrogen with slow-release methylene urea in a single tiny granule. Each granule contains exactly the same proportion of nitrogen (N) phosphate (P) and potassium (K). This guarantees an even and constant supply of nutrients