

# Dew - Watch

Dew is a form of precipitation, when the atmosphere has the maximum water vapour it can hold, as temperatures decline and with minimal air movement, moisture condenses onto the surface near the ground. If this process happens and the cooling reaches temperatures below 0°C then frost occurs instead of dew.

Dew can be a hindrance to the greenkeeper, it may reduce operational activity such as aeration and top dressing, and delay mowing later into the day. Dew also encourages the development of diseases such as *Microdochium nivale* (Fusarium Patch) and *Sclerotinia homeocarpa* (Dollar Spot), by providing a film of water for the spores to migrate and develop. Reducing moisture on the leaf surface for as long as possible in each day and maintaining that dry leaf surface will reduce the proliferation of fungal activity.



## Strategies for reducing dew, and dew formation on the leaf:-

- Mechanical intervention – the use of switching tools, such as rod or rope to disturb dew formed on turf and physically remove the moisture is often employed and is immediate so can be used when an unexpected dew forms. Other methods include using blown air, such as from a leaf blower to disturb the dew. A disadvantage of this type of method is the time involved to remove the dew, also, it may be late in the day before all surfaces have been attended to, leaving some areas with moisture on the leaves for a considerable time and thereby allowing fungi a greater period of activity. Also, once carried out, dew may still reappear even in the same day if conditions are correct, and certainly can occur in subsequent days with the appropriate weather conditions.
- Cultural – by reducing the humidity and moisture close to the turf surface. Ensuring adequate drainage is available and the rootzone is receptive of excess water. Often late summer aeration programmes will assist, with removal of thatch and consolidated root zone material and remediated with more open textured infill substrates.
  - Drainage can be improved in various ways:-
    - **Profile Golf** – a ceramic root zone amendment specifically designed to balance the air and moisture within the soil profile.
    - **Penetr-8R** – surfactant able to reduce significantly the surface tension of water and allow it to drain more easily away from the surface.
    - **Intergrate** – a flocculating agent that will help to restore the structural integrity of clay platelets in rootzones, allowing better water movement and air infiltration
    - **Dew-T** – a surfactant that sticks to plant leaves and modifies the surface tension of water allowing it to run off the leaf more easily.



Rigby Taylor Ltd

Phone Free 0800 424919

email : [sales@rigbytaylor.com](mailto:sales@rigbytaylor.com)