

Parkhead Cricket Club

Cricket Club bowled over by green waste compost

A cricket club in South Yorkshire has seen encouraging improvements to the quality of its pitch, thanks to the application of green waste compost.



Parkhead Cricket Club had found its pitch time consuming and expensive to maintain. It was originally built from compacted steelworks slag with only a thin layer of top soil. Insufficient root depth meant constant watering, and regular applications of chemical fertilisers. Weeds, moss and 'red thread' were perennial problems.

David Grahame from the club was keen to find a solution to these problems, Carl Pass of Premier Pitches, leading sports turf contractors throughout the UK and in Europe, suggested using a top dressing made from composted organic waste, and CO2Sense Yorkshire provided funding for the project.

Twenty three tonnes of screened 10mm compost were applied by Premier Pitches using a belt and brush machine, then worked in to 50mm using a 2m multicore machine with 18mm solid tines. Four 'control' areas were designated, which did not

Composting

- Green waste compost has excellent root-enhancing and nutrient delivering properties, making it ideal for sports pitches
- Chemical fertiliser, herbicide and water use is reduced – which saves money and lessens the club's environmental impact
- Creating new markets for green waste compost will help the region to meet its challenging target of diverting 640,000 tonnes of organic waste from landfill by 2010
- Every tonne of green waste diverted from landfill into compost saves 0.2 tonnes of CO₂.

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David Grahame – PARKHEAD CRICKET CLUB

receive an application of the compost, to enable the club to compare the results.

Within just a few days, the grass showed a darker, healthier green colour and weeds and moss were noticeably reduced over the length of the trial, compared to the control areas. The results lasted several months.

“We’ve seen a surge of interest in this area recently, and it’s exciting to see how far we can now take this.”

Geoff Bower – PROJECT MANAGER – PARK FARMING LTD



David Grahame said: “Our usual regime of repeated applications of chemical fertilisers, weed killers and moss killers is expensive and time-consuming, and can’t be good for the environment. We were keen to try something more sustainable.

“The green waste compost proved to be an excellent alternative. Although the results faded over time, it provided an impressive boost to the quality of the pitch. Funding permitting, we would be very keen to continue with this process in future years.

“This would help us to reduce use of chemical fertilisers, and improve the soil depth. This has to be a more sustainable and environmentally-sound option.”

The compost was provided by Park Farming Ltd from South Anston, near Sheffield. After 15 years of manufacturing compost and supplying the agricultural sector, the business was keen to trial its compost in other applications.

Project manager Geoff Bower said: “There is a growing body of evidence which shows that green waste compost can have excellent root-enhancing properties for grass, which makes it an ideal candidate for sports pitches.

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CO2Sense has supported regional composters by providing free planning and design advice to help set up composting sites; offering funding support for fledgling schemes; running specialist conferences and events, and by publishing a regional directory of local suppliers.

CO2Sense was established by Yorkshire Forward to help businesses in the region to prosper in the low carbon economy. We provide expertise and funding to help environmental companies to grow. We work with partners to help all organisations to fund and develop initiatives that reduce their carbon emissions.