

Farm Survey

Type of Farming System

Conventional.

Products used in trial

BactivatePlus⁺

**+ Bactivate
BioBoost⁺**

**Bactivate
SeaweedSolution⁺**

Bactivate Plus 300Kg per Ha, BioBoost+ 2L per Ha every 3 months and Seaweed solution 1.5L per Ha every 4 weeks.

Background

The quality of the sports surface affects the performance of a sport. To maintain a good quality turf surface is of upmost priority for owners in allowing them to bid for and hold top class sporting events. Mowbray Racetrack in Launceston, Tasmania was having consistent issues with wear after race meets. This was partly due to a build-up of thatch that was inhibiting the roots to penetrate deep enough into the soil profile. The Bactivate Program starting in Aug 2012, was to assess the effectiveness of Bactivate Program on the turf of the racetrack. The trial site was conducted on the final turn, as this section of the track was consistently the worst section of the track. The program was compared to the current practices being used at the Mowbray Racetrack.

The goals aimed to achieve include:

- Greater root development
- Thicker root mass
- Deeper penetration of root system
- Breaking up thatch layer



Fig 1. The control section plug (left) and the Bactivate Program plug (right)

Business Name: Mowbray Racetrack

Crops grown: Kentucky Blue and Couch, no over sowing of cool season grasses

Farm Data

Location: Location Launceston, TAS

15% of the track was under trial and after the race season, Mowbray will have 100% of the track under the Bactivate Program on the back of the trial results



Fig 2. The overlook of the finishing turn post treatment, Oct 2012.

Observed benefits

The superintendent was very pleased with the depth that the Kentucky blue roots (white and thick) had penetrated through the thatch layer. The couch root systems had also improved compared to the control site plug samples (Fig 1). This trial has been a complete success and based on the result in only 6 weeks, Mowbray Racetrack have decided to adopt the Bactivate Program across the entire track.

