

Turf Applications of Wormcastings & Wormcasting Tea

Fall/Spring Application of Dry Fertilizer

Put down 1-5 tons per acre of **Wormcastings** in the fall and spring as top dressing. Reduce current fertilization program by 1/3 each year. Micronutrients may be needed if not provided in **Wormcastings**. Check chemistry/nutrient analysis and biological yearly.

Liquid Fertilizer

Initially apply 15 gallons of **Wormcasting Tea** per acre directly on top of the plant residue/**Wormcastings**. Then use 5 gallons of **Wormcasting Tea** per acre, once a month, mixed in the correct amount of water throughout the year.

Greens Maintenance

Following aeration treatments, fill plugs with 30% **Wormcastings** and 70% sand. Water in with **Wormcasting Tea**.

Remove Thatch

Apply fungal **Wormcasting Tea** to decompose thatch instead of physical removal.

Overseed in Fall or Spring

Spray **Wormcasting Tea** to promote rapid germination. Consider adding mycorrhizal fungal spores^(see note 1) if lacking colonization roots.

Fungicides, Nematicides

If any pesticides are used, apply **Wormcastings Tea** 3-5 days after application, then continue with prescribed program. By maintaining food web with beneficial foods in **Wormcastings**, no pesticides should be necessary.

Herbicides

Herbicide needs will be reduced with time as the desired grasses out-compete the weeds, and nitrate is immobilized. If herbicides are necessary apply **Wormcasting Tea** 3 to 5 days later to reintroduce microorganisms affected by the herbicides.

Disease Outbreak

If a disease outbreak occurs, use ***Wormcasting Tea*** immediately in irrigation system continue every 3 days until resolved, the return to prescribed program.

Water Usage

Water usage will decrease as the soil microbiology rebuilds the soil health. Typically, in the first year a 30% decrease in water use has been seen, and by the second and third years, up to 50-60% total decrease in water use. Please remember to reduce water applications when using ***Wormcasting Teas***.

Decrease Usage

After 4-5 years and the soil is healthy, solution usage will decrease to seasonally or during pest or disease alert.

Notes:

1. **VAM** (Vascular Arbuscular Mycorrhiza). An **arbuscular mycorrhiza** (plural *mycorrhizae* or *mycorrhizas*) is a type of mycorrhiza in which the fungus penetrates the cortical cells of the roots of a *vascular plant* (i.e. trees). AM fungi belong to *division Glomeromycota*. Arbuscular mycorrhizae are characterized by the formation of unique structures such as *vesicles* and *arbuscules* by the *arbuscular mycorrhizal* fungus (AMF or AM fungus). AMF help plants to capture *nutrients* such as *phosphorus* and micronutrients from the soil. It is believed they had a crucial role to play when plants moved from sea to land millions of years ago.