



[www.livingturf.com](http://www.livingturf.com)

Your supplier of quality commercial turf products. Email: [rcooper@livingturf.com](mailto:rcooper@livingturf.com), Call: 02 9667 4333

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### Pre-conditioning reduces fungicide use

It's a pleasure to get the "all clear" when inquiring about disease incidence. Apart from the reduction of stress on managers, scaling back fungicide use is better for the environment, and for the balance sheet.

The pre-conditioning work we've seen our customers start in spring 2004, has resulted in very little disease in summer that's caused them concern. In part, that's because monitoring has allowed for timely prevention, but largely it seems that strategic nutrition and has played a vital role.

Pre-conditioning is achieved through a combination of cultural tactics that promote turf, and soil, health. An overall game plan is essential to ensure that pre-conditioning tactics are deployed in the in the most effective way. A strategy must be conceptualized well in advance of the season, and a qualified independent opinion can often provide renewed perspective.



A critical part of pre-conditioning with nutrition has been VITALise®. Regular foliar application of VITALise® has made bentgrass turf more resilient to heat stress and kept it largely disease free. There is substantial evidence to support success with this product, rather than being simply an anomaly or coincidence, VITALise® works reliably when used as directed.



VITALise by MATCHplay®

### Preparation for over seeding

Village Green is a specialized NZ seed company with a unique product development capability. Lead by Tony Evans (Evans Turf), Village Green boasts a long history and strong reputation as an expert in NZ turf seed.

Two of the tried and tested Village Green products that Living Turf are proud to present to Australian turf managers are RELIANT and AM BLEND. These two products are characterized as the jewel in the crown (RELIANT), and the high performance workhorse (AM BLEND). Both products are ideally suited for over-seeding sports fields, tees or fairways.

Being an independent marketer allows Living Turf to select products for individual market segments and specific customer needs. That's why we continue to recommend CARAVELLE for transitional purposes, and now RUSTIC for surrounds and landscape use.

With extensive experience in the study and practice of over seeding and transition, Living Turf is eager to supply technical support your turf seed requirements. For more information call us, or visit [www.livingturf.com](http://www.livingturf.com).



Over seeding trials carried out at North Sydney Oval.



Grant Thomas  
Tel - 0407 100 222

Grant Thomas scored his first job as a greenkeeper at a turf farm in Camden five years ago. Now Grant has his greenkeeping trade, is enrolled in the turf degree course at University of Sydney and has recently joined us at Living Turf. We're impressed with Grants' initiative and enthusiasm and we gladly welcome him aboard.

The recent hot weather has taught us more about managing turf in drought, imposing stresses that we knew would eventually arrive. I'm pleased to report that our customers' fungicide use is down this season, and in this issue we discuss some of the ways that preconditioning has helped their turf to cope with added drought stress.

This season we are pleased to announce the launch of [www.livingturf.com](http://www.livingturf.com). Featuring a quick reference guide to products, regular commentary on seasonal turf issues, and handy downloads for decision makers, this website will help us to serve our customers better.

With over-seeding around the corner, we're very excited about our new arrangement with Village Green NZ. Tony Evans is a knowledgeable seeds-man who supplies us 'direct from the farm' with fresh seed, and in this newsletter we cover just what that means for Living Turf customers.

So much to discuss - I hope you enjoy this edition of A Minute on Your Turf.

Rob Cooper  
Director





### New Living Turf website - [www.livingturf.com](http://www.livingturf.com)

The problem with printed product catalogues is their lack of permanence. No sooner are they printed than they are outdated, with product deletions, changes or additions. The best way to remain relevant to our customers is to stay current.

The launch of [www.livingturf.com](http://www.livingturf.com) will enable us to do just that. We plan to post seasonal articles regularly, and in time a library of technical articles on various turf issues and product technology will develop. These are long-term goals for our humble site, but at the end of the day we believe this is a credible way to add value for our customers.



### Disease Management

Intensive turf management is most often accompanied by a high risk of infection from pathogenic diseases. These diseases can cause significant damage and in turn can be very costly to control.

Turf professionals strive to minimize use of pesticides by employing cultural practices to keep a healthy turf plant. When push comes to shove, an arsenal of controls are required for efficient control when disease outbreaks occur. At Living Turf we advocate contingency programming of fungicides. This is a process of identifying diseases that predominate in a given climate, along with

their peak season of activity. A rotation of chemistry can then be programmed, before field monitoring to predict outbreaks. Fungicide use that is driven by predictive tactics is proactive management, and is often the most cost effective strategy.



Nematode induced disease complex

Generally speaking, you get what you pay for when it comes to fungicides. The more expensive products usually exhibit a wider spectrum of control or a higher degree of efficiency than cheaper products.

A free download is available at [www.livingturf.com](http://www.livingturf.com) for cross-referencing common fungicide products with their cost in use, and their degree of efficiency against individual pathogens.

### RENOblen Success

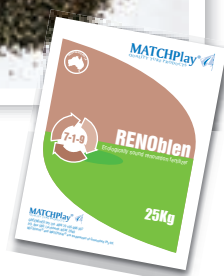
RENOblen 7-1-9 was developed prior to Spring 2004 and it has quickly established a reputation as the highest quality and best performed renovation product on the market.

A versatile blend of resin coated NPK in a greens grade particle. RENOblen also boasts wetting agent, trace elements and a unique organic component called Nutrasmart® - a granular humic acid with exciting nutritional properties.

RENOblen helps reverse phosphorus (P) build up in managed turf soils, by chelating P and returning it to a plant-available state. RENOblen did an excellent job at renovation in spring 2004 and, at Living Turf we're preparing to meet our customers' autumn demand.



RENOblen 7-1-9



# AQUAturf

#### VERSATILE

- Increases infiltration and water holding capacity in turf soil

#### CONVENIENT

- Available in liquid and granular forms for easy application

#### SAFE

- Non-ionic, long chain polymeric ingredients will not burn turf

#### LONG LASTING

- Hydrophilic (holds water) and lipophilic (will not leach) ingredients

#### COST EFFECTIVE

- Australian-made and proudly bought to you by

