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To Whom It May Concern

May 23, 2001

We have had an opportunity about 30 days ago to try a product called Hydretain on our golf course. It was introduced to me by a salesman in the turf and horticultural markets that I have known for years. His recommendations have always proven to be agronomical sound.

Plant City Golf Club, located in central Florida, is rather old, being partially constructed in the '30's and finished several years later. Greens are an older variety of putting green turf, bred in the '50's. "328" Bermuda does not like cutting heights below $\frac{1}{4}$ " in the heat of the summer, does not particularly like draughty conditions, and is prone to declining rapidly if one or both of these conditions occur.

**An important note is that we have not had the first drop of rain for 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ months and are experiencing the worst draught in the last 50-year history of Florida.

Upon the advice of our salesman (whom by the way does not even sell this product through his company), we applied it at the recommended initial rate to all of our green, collar, and approach areas. Several areas were left as test sites for any comparisons. Soil fertility and leaf tissue analyses were all balanced and in optimum ranges. Our turf conditions were in the good range at the start of the experiment. However, many areas were showing symptoms that decline was setting in. Since the application, our staff has begun irrigation renovation at several green sites to optimize irrigation applications by reconfiguring old design flows. Proper irrigating of product produces optimum results. Evidence to that shows at 2 green sites, where improper irrigation applications, due to design flows, showed us that the product, if not properly irrigated into the soil profile, does not work to its optimum potential.

Normal procedures followed for the next 10 days. Improvement in color showed up first. Secondly, growth characteristics began to jump. Third, decline reversed in most areas. As I was told, thatch areas, hydrophobic areas and improperly irrigated areas were showing less than optimum improvement. However 3 of the areas have been rebuilt so that irrigation is once again being properly distributed. Within 2 weeks, these greens complexes have reversed their decline symptoms and are performing as the others.

We still have 2 complexes to finish. These areas show decline, except where irrigation is making proper coverage. Think of proper irrigation as a warm blanket on a cold night. Whatever is not covered may experience some discomfort.

Our next phase of experimenting includes some fairway and tee areas that are poor performers, mainly due to nematode proliferation. I have seen some initial improvement in the first test site, so work is beginning at some new sites.

In conclusion, Hydretain seems to be doing a superior job, once into the root zone. Soil moisture levels seem the most optimum I have noticed in my 3 years at this facility. Not too wet and not too dry. Much healthier rooting and by appearance, better nutrient uptake. Another round or two of soil and tissue sampling will help to quantify whether this is the case or not. Note should be taken that proper fertilization, irrigation, and pest control measures, including all BMP techniques must preclude the use of this product for it to perform to its optimum. At this moment, at least for us, it appears we have found a very effective management tool.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles M. Lewison". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "C".

Charles M. Lewison
General Manager
Certified Golf Course Supt.
Certified Crop Advisor
American Society of Agronomy