

SYMBIO SEMINAR

SOIL BIOLOGY AND GREENKEEPING SEMINARS

Diseases, fungal dry patch, fairy rings, the speed of thatch reduction, nematode attacks, percolation rates and even the grasses you grow are all determined by the biology in your rootzone. This seminar will help you understand how to improve your rootzone biology to solve the most pressing turf management problems.

- **WHEN:** 22nd October 2014
- **WHERE:** The Curragh Golf Club, The Curragh, Co. Kildare, Ireland
- **COST:** Attendance (including lunch) is **FREE**
- **CONTACT:** Polly Gearing 01428 685762 polly@symbio.co.uk to book your place

*The day starts at 9.30 with teas / coffees on arrival and is designed to help Head and Deputy Greenkeepers, Groundsmen, Club Secretaries and Managers understand **how playing conditions can be improved and savings can be made** and by working with soil biology instead of fighting against it.*

9.30 - 9.45	Coffee and registration
9.45 - 11.15	Dr Su Hodgson - An Introduction to soil biology for sports turf and how it works and effects which grasses you grow, diseases you get, fertilisers you need, root depth and drainage qualities of the rootzone
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.00	Kerr Hunter - Setting the Scene – Why Soil Biology is deficient in our rootzones?
12.00 - 12.20	Kerr Hunter – Organic matter- most of it good!! Organic matter includes roots, organic fertilisers, soil microbes, partially degraded humic compounds all of which benefit the grass. How to use organic matter, even thatch, to improve drainage, grow perennial grasses, fight disease and reduce nutrient inputs.
12.20 - 12.40	Kerr Hunter – Is aggressive aeration and heavy top dressing really necessary?
12.40 - 13.30	Lunch
13.30 - 14.00	Dr Su Hodgson - An Introduction to Microscopy - A quick introduction to viewing the microbes essential for healthy plants and soil.
14.00 - 14.30	Kerr Hunter - Early starts and late finish - how to extend the growing season and beat your neighbours to a great playing surface every spring
14.30 - 15.00	Dr Su Hodgson - Disease -Train your grass to fight back - learn about phytoalexins, competitive exclusion, natural toxin production, predation, dynamic barriers - get nature's armoury on your side to reduce disease and fungicide costs.
15.00 - 15.30	Questions and close

4 CPD POINTS WILL BE AWARDED

YOUR HOSTS

Dr Su Hodgson who completed her degree and PhD under the guidance of Prof. Alan Gange at Royal Holloway, University of London. Dr Su's research field was in fungal endophytes in plants but she brings a wealth of experience in all the microbial components of the soil food web for grass and plant root zones.

Kerr Hunter. Kerr recently completed his Turf Science degree at Myerscough College conducting his thesis on the use of mycorrhizae and zeolites. Kerr was a Course Manager and was a loyal Symbio customer for many years, this along with his degree, has given him a good insight into combining the scientific principals with effective greenkeeping practices.



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