Profilegolf™

Profile® Rehabilitates Iconic Course with New Approach to Soil Modification

The Serapong Golf Course at Singapore's Sentosa Golf Club is home to some of the most iconic moments in golf history. In 2020, nearly 15 years since its last renovation, the course was due for an update. General Manager and Director of Agronomy, Andrew Johnston, noted that the soils were getting older and the subtropical environment encouraged the growth of organics. The soil pH was also rising, and the disease pressure was increasing. Testing showed the nematode levels were often above 500 and causing plant damage.

SELECTING THE RIGHT PRODUCTS

Johnston sought out to develop a solution that would amend the soil profile without having to completely replace the greens. He turned to James Gordon with Profile® Products to assist with a unique drill and fill regimen using Profile® Porous Ceramic (PPC) Greens Grade™ that was impregnated with carbon. PPC is an inorganic soil amendment that allows for deeper rooting, increased drainage, nutrient retention and better water management. Meanwhile, the carbon acts like a biochar to promote healthy soil. To combat the rising pH, Gordon also recommended applying Profile's Aqua-pHix™, a soil amendment designed to safely and quickly decrease soil pH, salts and bicarbonates for healthier, thicker turf.

ENHANCING THE SOIL PROFILE

A month before construction started, Singapore went into lockdown because of COVID-19. Johnston and his staff took on the work, completing more than 60 percent of the construction by themselves. That involved using the drill and fill machine in three different directions across the greens and drilling 12-inch holes that were then filled with the PPC/carbon product. "This allowed us to modify the soil profile for the next 20 years without the risk of reconstructing it entirely," Johnston said. "I've got to be honest with you, by introducing Profile to Sentosa, our courses are probably the best in Asia."

A LONG-TERM SOLUTION

With the soil rehabilitated, the greens showed improvement within weeks. This solution reduced The Serapong's N-P-K application by 50 percent and its nematicide application by over 95 percent. The Aqua-pHix also lowered the soil pH, which Johnston noted would improve the longevity of the renovation. Since reopening, The Serapong has been sold out every day with dozens of people on a wait list to play.

"The plant became strong, the root system was better," Johnston said. "In fact, the plants became so strong, they live in harmony with the nematodes now. It's never looked so good. Having good soil that drains with the PPC and the biochar is a gamechanger. Now think about if everybody in the golf industry would start using PPC with carbon; think of how much less fertilizer and chemicals we would use. That would be incredible."

Project Summary

Sentosa Golf Club – The Serapong

CHALLENGES:

- **Rising Soil pH**
- **Increased Disease Pressure**

RESULTS:

- **Rehabilitated Soil**
- **Reduction in Fertilizer Applications**
- **Lower Soil pH**
- **Improved Longevity of the Course**

AGRONOMIST:

Andrew Johnston,
General Manager/Director of Agronomy

PRODUCTS USED:

- **Profile® Porous Ceramic (PPC) Greens Grade™ Impregnated with Carbon**
- **Profile Aqua-pHix™ for ongoing maintenance**

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