



SUMMARY TRIAL REPORT

The Use of TerraCottem[®] Universal in Golf Courses: Vuosaari Club

Client:

Vuosaari Golf, Helsinki, Finland

<http://golfpiste.com/vuosaarigolf/>



Incorporated into the root zone of tees, greens, fairways and landscaped areas of a course, the TerraCottem[®] soil conditioner is used to improve the drought-tolerance and water-use efficiency of play and planted areas, to help establish and maintain excellent root and plant growth, and to increase the amount of water and nutrients available in the soil while significantly reducing the inputs required to maintain turf and landscaped areas in top condition.

Vuosaari Golf (Helsinki, Finland)

1. Facts & Figures

- All greens were constructed in the Summer of 2000
- Seeding: between July 31st and September 30th 2000
- Grass: bentgrass "Cato"
- Substrate: sand/peat mixture ratio 80:20
- **TC - application rate: 100 g/m²**

2. Encountered challenges on site

- Possible problem with drying out: the area is windy and hilly.
- The terrain did not offer much shelter from heat of the sun.



3. Reasons to use TerraCottem[®]

- Since there was no guarantee as to the required water supply for the entire golf course from the nearby rivulet, the irrigation system had to be planned very carefully. By using TerraCottem on the greens they hoped that alternative (and more expensive) irrigation methods wouldn't have to be used.
- Positive experiences and references from other greenkeepers:
 - **Elise Järvinen**, Tuusulan Golfklubi
 - **Kristiina Laukkanen**, Vierumäki Golf

4. TerraCottem[®] - application

- TerraCottem[®] was spread out onto the surface with a pushable centrifugal spreader.

- Seeds were sown with a so called old Sisis so that 2/3 was setting sand and 1/3 seeds
- Afterwards, TerraCottem® was incorporated into a depth of 25 cm by using an agricultural rototiller
- After that the surface was levelled with a bunker machine and rolled with a Bomag vibrating roller without vibration. That procedure was repeated several times.

5. Results

- *"Cato's germination was even and fast and we did not encounter any problems."*
- *"Gauzes used in spring 2001 progressed the growth significantly which was very useful because the cold weather in May had delayed the growth a little. However, all the greens were playable in June 2001 when the opening tournament was arranged at Vuosaari Golf."*

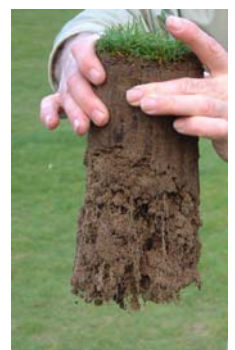


- *"I have kept an exact record of the amounts of water used on our golf course. According to my calculations, we have saved 50 % in irrigation quantities on our greens thanks to TerraCottem. I can warmly recommend TerraCottem® for greens in other Finnish golf courses, too. The water supplied by our rivulet has been enough for the entire golf course so we achieved the original objective set to TerraCottem®."*
- *"The hibernation of the greens went well. We found extra value for TC at Vuosaari Golf this spring after a long winter. We believe that TC has helped bind water effectively into the rootzone. Because of soil frost, irrigation wasn't started until the last week of April but the greens are already green and in a good condition."*

Sakari Parvio, the greenkeeper

"We wanted to have the best possible greens so having instructed by experts we decided to use TerraCottem® on them. Many people didn't believe that the root zone on the greens would have been mature before the autumn but due to an unexpected fast root growth, the opening tournament was arranged already in June. One year after seeding, the roots on our greens are over 20 cm long. I'm very satisfied with TerraCottem®."

Harry Hannelius, Managing Director at Vuosaari Golf



6. Conclusions

"We have been very satisfied with TerraCottem because it has been working in the way we hoped it would work."

Sakari Parvio, greenkeeper Vuosaari Golf ('Bunkkeriutiset' Magazine, May 2002)