



OSTARA
CrystalGreen®

From the Sod Farm: A CASE STUDY



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ACHIEVING MAXIMUM TENSILE
STRENGTH ABOUT 4 MONTHS
EARLIER THAN WE USED TO.”

- MATT HOLLOWAY
Production Head, Quantico Creek Sod Farms,
Hebron, MD

Continuous Release Fertilizer Delivers Fast & Environmentally Friendly Results to Quantico Creek Sod Farms

Quantico Creek Sod Farms in Hebron, Maryland started in 2003 with a modest 30 acres on the Evans home farm. In less than 10 years, owner Matt Holloway has grown the business to more than 1,000 acres in turfgrass production, specializing in tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass sod. Homeowners are the farm's main customers but their client list also includes The Pentagon, The Baltimore Ravens practice field and many high end golf courses in the middle Atlantic area.

Quantico Creek is located within the sensitive Chesapeake Bay watershed where phosphorus restrictions limit fertilizer applications in an effort to preserve and protect local waterways. According to Matt, limiting phosphorus applications can prolong seed establishment and result in thinner root mass, and since profitability in the sod business rides on fast turn around, choosing an efficient fertilizer is essential.

“The quicker you get your sod out of the field,” Holloway says. “The less amount of time and money spent maintaining it.”

Turning sod sooner depends on quick establishment of a healthy root system. “Initial rooting is our main concern,” Holloway explains. “You want something that's going to sustain seedlings. Phosphorous is critical for establishing roots, and sustaining root development throughout the life of the plant.”

Chickens were once raised on the land that is now Quantico Creek sod farm, so over the years, the fields received a fair share of chicken manure. “We get soil tests that show high levels of phosphorus, but that doesn't mean it's available to the plant,” says Holloway. “It gets tied up and you just can't make it available to the plant”.

“ THE ROOTING OF THE INITIAL GROWTH WAS SUPERIOR ON THE CRYSTAL GREEN SIDE, ESPECIALLY THE DENSITY OF THE ROOTS. A YEAR TO 16 MONTHS WAS OUR NORMAL INTERVAL BETWEEN PLANTING AND HARVESTING. NOW WITH CRYSTAL GREEN WE’RE HARVESTING AS EARLY AS 8 MONTHS LATER. ”

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Production Head, Quantico Creek Sod Farms,
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Crystal Green is recognized by:



HEALTHIER ROOTS, EARLIER HARVEST

When Holloway learned how Crystal Green® provides a slow feeding of plant-available phosphorus over an extended period of time he put it to the test. Holloway conducted a side-by-side trial. He divided a grassed area in half. He applied Crystal Green to one side and his usual phosphorous source to the other side. The difference was evident. “The rooting of the initial growth was superior on the Crystal Green side, especially the density of the roots,” says Holloway. “Just three months after planting we were able to lift the sod on the harvester, that’s the fastest we ever had sod.”

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Holloway has seen first hand how Crystal Green’s Root-Activated™ citrate soluble mode of action resists dissolving in water, releasing nutrients in response to plant growth instead. At one point Holloway says, “I used my fertilizer spreader and there was still some residual fertilizer in the bottom that included Crystal Green. Hurricane Sandy came through and filled it up with rainwater. Three weeks later when I went to use the spreader the other fertilizer particles dissolved but the little Crystal Green granules were still there.”

Reflecting, Holloway says that it used to take 12 to 16 months before he could harvest the new sod. With Crystal Green he’s turning over his fields much faster, which he attributes to Crystal Green efficiency. “We’re achieving maximum tensile strength about 4 months earlier than we used to,” he says. “I think it’s because now we don’t lose all of our phosphorus in one shot. Now, once we reach 12 months it’s really strong and we can harvest.”

Ostara Nutrient Division

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Crystal Green® is sustainably produced by:

