

BACKGROUND

- Thatch is the organic layer below the green leaf material of the turf and above the soil itself.
- Excess thatch occurs when new tissue develops at a rate quicker than soil microbes can break it down.
- Thatch can hinder root development.
- Thatch provides a good environment for turf pathogens and insect pests.
- Thatch removes the buffering effect of soil on rapid changes of air temperature around the crown of the plant.
- Thatch becomes hydrophobic when it dries out and it can cause water holding problems.
- Over-seeding can be less successful if thatch creates a barrier between seed and soil.



APPROACH

1. Control should be via an integrated approach of cultural practices and sensible product use.
2. Aerate to encourage soil microbial action
3. Scarify to remove dead plant material
4. Apply topdressing to dilute thatch
5. Use correct levels of nutrition. Excess nitrogen will encourage thatch.
6. Use the correct types of nutrition
7. Wetting agents to aid water management
8. Use soil biostimulants to encourage microbial breakdown of thatch
9. Box off clippings to limit build up of dead plant material in soil.

i-TURF SOLUTIONS

Product type	Why	Scotts solution
Slow release fertilizers	Gradual consistent feeding avoids over-feeding that can lead to thatch development.	Sierraform GT
Controlled release fertilizers	Gradual consistent feeding avoids over-feeding that can lead to thatch development.	Sierrablen, Sierrablen Plus
Wetting agent	Breakdown hydrophobic barrier caused by thatch to allow better wetting of soil and to allow moisture penetration when too wet.	H2Pro Liquid, H2Pro Granules and H2Pro Tablet.
Carbohydrate and seaweed biostimulant	Increase microbial population to encourage breakdown of thatch materials	Vitalnova / Greenmaster Blade
Porous topdressing with high nutrient holding capacity	Regular topdressing dilutes thatch and high nutrient holding capacity make nutrition more effective reduce future thatch build-up.	Greenmaster Topdress Z

For solutions and treatments of Thatch, please visit the dedicated solution pages at www.scottspprofessional.com/iTurf