

Compost Topdressing Trials at The K Club

Topdressing trials were carried out from July to November to investigate the use of high-quality compost in the maintenance of golf fairways. The trials were kindly hosted by the management of the K Club Smurfit Golf Course and were sponsored by Cré- Composting Association of Ireland and the Waste Resource Action Programme (WRAP).

It has been recognised that a potential application for quality composted materials is within the maintenance of sports and amenity turf. Similar research has been completed by the Sports Turf Research Institute in England, and the practice is being utilised in the UK and USA.



Back row left: Kevin McCabe (Enrich), Percy Foster (Cré), Garry Bird (OCAE Consultants), Ian Garner (WRAP). Front row: Ron Alexander (Ron Alexander Associates), Paul Mathers (WRAP), Avril Rothwell (OCAE Consultants).

Compost has the potential for use as a soil conditioner and a nutrient source, and has even displayed natural disease suppressive characteristics, but has yet to be scientifically trialled in Ireland. To address this situation, two field trials were undertaken to assess the potential benefits of compost application to turf grass on a golf fairway possessing two different soil types (sand and clay).

The open day gave greenkeepers and turf specialists a 'hands on' opportunity to see these research plots using compost, as well as allowing the opportunity to query the researchers.