



I hope you all head a great time over the Christmas period and a Very Happy New Year to all members, their families and friends.

I subscribe and follow many other green-keepers, universities and research institutes, all over the world, via the World Wide Web. I read many articles some of which are very boring, but one that caught my eye was headlined "A Peck of Dirt, true or false?". It was written in simple English by a leading professor from a research facility in the UK that specialises in the research of antibiotics. I think most people know that penicillin was discovered partly by accident and was originally a naturally found antibiotic, not man made. I was not aware that this discovery sparked off research into what other antibiotics could be found in nature. Well, another famous antibiotic was found and isolated from soil only found around an old castle in Italy and scientists were not able to make this product in the lab for over 35 years. Other antibiotics have been found in organic soils and it is expected that more will be found over the next decade or so.

So, the old adage of a Peck of Dirt will do you no harm is so very true.

What is known is that there is a very wide range of soil biology in organic soils, but this has been greatly reduced where chemicals have been introduced. We have been duped by advertising from the large multinationals into believing that a good healthy grass lawn should be dark green and stripy! Very far from the truth! So, for the long term benefit of your green, all the members using the green and myself, I am going to continue with my organic approach. Yes, I will introduce more biology by spraying a mix containing selected strains of beneficial microscopic fungi, nematodes, bacteria, etc.. This microbiology is partly spread by earth worms, so we will have to put up with a few of them for a while longer.

So, I am aiming for a root zone, which is friable, free draining, full of a good range of soil biology. This will help to naturally prevent disease, help to naturally recycle the thatch into its basic parts that the grass plants can use, help to promote deeper rooting which will lessen the need for heavy irrigation, and to give a better bowling experience.



Paul Wright

January 2019