

November 5, 2010

Marija Watson  
c/o Indiana Wildlife Federation  
4715 West 106th Street  
Zionsville, IN 46077

Marija,

Thank you for allowing us to provide you with a very quick description of the practices the Engledow Group utilizes at its corporate location (1100 E. 116<sup>th</sup> Street Carmel, IN) that in a small way show our dedication to sustainable lawn practices:

- ✔ The Engledow Group has been applying phosphorus free fertilizers for the past 2 years on our established turf areas. In newly seeded and/or renovated areas – we will make one application of “starter” fertilizer that does contain a small percentage of phosphorus. After the turf is established, we only use phosphorus free fertilizers
- ✔ In an experiment last fall, we killed off the lawn area immediately in front of our building and reseeded with a turf type fescue grass mix. This particular blend is much more drought tolerant and requires very little irrigation during the summer months. The new varieties of turf type fescue, once established, provide a very nice looking lawn for a commercial site. The grass is not as even and consistent as other mixes that normally are a blend of blue grass, fescue, and rye but it is slower growing (requiring fewer mowings), requires less fertilizer, and is more drought resistant than other common varieties.
- ✔ The retaining pond located on our property was planted with native grasses and forbs about 12 years ago and continues to mature. An area surrounding the lake and extending approximately 60 feet from the waters edge is now completely native and requires only spot herbicide treatments each spring. The area is also burned once per year in the spring to encourage further development of the prairie.
- ✔ We have also shifted from broadcast applications of herbicide to targeted treatments and certain unseen areas of our property are cut only on an as needed basis.

Of the 4 items mentioned above, the move to targeted herbicide applications and the use of no phosphorus fertilizers seem to be “no brainer” type of decisions. The turf remains vibrant and visually acceptable to most clients. Development of natural/native areas takes time (3 to 5 years) and people need to understand that the final product is not a neat, clean look but rather an area that looks much more like a prairie and, to some, almost unkempt. The verdict is still out on the turf type fescue...at least on our site. This past summer was very dry and our turf was not truly established when the drought hit. Next year will be a better test but, from our peers in the industry, this is certainly a direction companies seem to be taking...especially when the turf is located further away from the building and in areas they do not wish to irrigate.

Thank you for allowing us to express our opinion(s) on the items we have utilized on our site. We will continue to explore other options as they become available.



Jim Engledow  
President  
Engledow Group