

March 2009



Concrete Trials begin

Boral Concrete undergoing Class A trials



Boral Concrete Bendigo have recently undergone a 6 week trial into the use of Class A recycled water as a substitution for potable water when producing concrete during peak seasons.

At present, Boral Concrete in Bendigo have a on-site recycling system, which captures and reuses all run off water from around the plant (such as truck wash-down water and storm water).

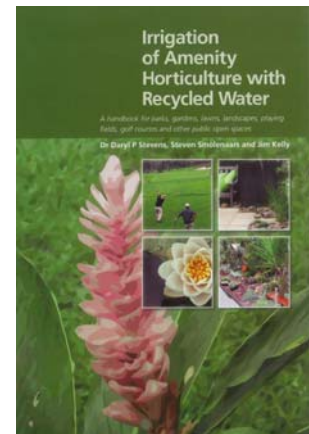
During periods of high concrete production and low rainfall, the amount of on site recycled water used to produce concrete tends to exceed the amount of water captured in the onsite recycled system. Boral then rely on the potable water to produce concrete and to top up the onsite recycled system.

The recycled water substitution trial has had a successful outcome with no issues arising during peak concrete season times.

Once final approval is provided by the Environment Protection Authority and Coliban Water, Boral Concrete will utilise the Class A recycled water permanently.

Recycled Water & Amenity Horticulture - New handbook developed

Arris Pty Ltd is a leading consultancy firm in communication and research, who have developed a handbook titled "Irrigation of Amenity Horticulture with Recycled Water".



This handbook has been designed for aiding those who manage recycled water on public open spaces such as parks and gardens, golf courses, race courses, turfs, nurseries and playing fields. It outlines practical 'how to' management advice such as salinity, nutrient balances, salt tolerant species and monitoring programs.

This handbook was presented in a workshop format by Dr Daryl Stevens from Arris Pty Ltd to many of Coliban Water's public open space customers as well as people from around Victoria who manage recycled water at different water corporations.



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Eaglehawk Golf Club is now utilising recycled water on the course.

The workshop was a success with all attendee's receiving a free handbook. This was made possible by the Commonwealth Government's 50% investment in all Horticulture Australia's research and development initiatives supported by Horticulture Australia Limited and a Smart Water Fund grant.

This handbook and other information can be downloaded from www.recycledwater.com.au

Organic pollution

Organic pollution is an ongoing issue throughout Victoria.

During the long periods of low rainfall we have been experiencing over the last few years, dry manure, leaf litter and other organic materials blow and settle in empty or low level dams.

When these dams receive water or the organic matter settles in water, it starts to decompose as it is the ultimate food source for bacteria and algae. Once the decomposition starts, the bacteria and algae multiply at an excessive rate using up all the free oxygen in the water causing putrefication.

Symptoms commonly experienced by landholders is a bad (septic) smell, dark coloured water and a oily black film across the surface of the water which can disappear during the day.

Stock will find this type of water foul-tasting and can be harmful to the young or weak.

To prevent this type of pollution occurring, remove organic matter/rubbish from the water prior to any flow of water (i.e channel run or forecast of heavy rainfall) and try to prevent the organic matter from entering the storage dam by having a vegetative cover around the dam.

This acts as a filter for run off which contains debris and exclude general grazing. If the vegetative cover starts to suffer from the drought, a netted fence or earth banks can lower the risk of organic matter entering the storage dam.

If organic pollution does occur, remove any organic matter floating on the surface and from the waters edge. Aeration will aid in improving the platability of the water. This does occur naturally over time after the organic matter is removed but can be accelerated by pumping the water out of the dam and back in to the dam in a waterfall type motion.

This will also stir up any organic matter lying on the bottom of the dam which will need to be removed to prevent the pollution occurring again was pumping has ceased.

Examples of organic pollution:



Above: oily film on water surface



Above: dark coloured water



Above: dark coloured water

If you wish to receive this newsletter electronically, please contact our Recycled Water Officer on 1300 363 200 or email coliban@coliban.com.au