



# JANUARY'S GROWERS DIARY; THE SCIENCE OF THE DEEP SLEEP

WELCOME TO THE VERY FIRST EDITION OF 'THE GROWER'S DIARY'. EACH MONTH, WE'RE TAKING YOU BEHIND THE FARM GATES HERE IN PAISLEY TO SHOW YOU EXACTLY WHAT GOES INTO GROWING, MAINTAINING, AND HARVESTING OUR PROFESSIONAL-GRADE TURF.

IT MIGHT SEEM QUIET ON THE FIELDS RIGHT NOW, BUT BENEATH THE FROST, THERE IS A COMPLEX BIOLOGICAL SURVIVAL STORY UNFOLDING.



## JANUARY VIEW OF THE FIELDS

### THE TURF SCIENCE: UNDERSTANDING DORMANCY

Many people ask if the grass is "dying" in January. The answer is no, grass becomes dormant. This is a sophisticated biological strategy where the grass slows its metabolism to conserve energy.

#### ABOVE THE GROUND:

As daylight hours reduce, grass produces less chlorophyll, which is why it starts to lose its green colour.

At the same time, photosynthesis slows down, allowing the plant to conserve energy when sunlight levels are too low for growth.

#### THE 'BATTERY' EFFECT:

Think of the roots as a battery. In January, the plant is "charging" that battery so it has the explosive energy required for the great awakening in spring.

#### BELOW THE SURFACE:

This is where the magic happens. The plant shifts its focus from "Leaf Growth" to "Life Support."

It moves all its essential nutrients down into the root system, creating a Carbohydrate Reserve.



### ON THE FARM THIS MONTH

#### CURRENT TASK: MONITORING & MAINTENANCE

While the fields are "sleeping," our team is anything but. We are currently in the workshop performing deep-system hauls on our harvesters and equipment.. In the fields, we are monitoring the conditions, checking for any early signs of pests or disease. The recent heavy rains in Paisley means our fields are wet and soft - unfortunately not suitable for our heavy machinery to work on them.

#### THE VIEW OF THE FIELDS

You'll notice the vibrant, lush green of summer has shifted to a muted, yellowy-brown hue. This isn't a sign of poor health; it's the grass plant protecting itself.

#### THE SOIL STATE

We are currently managing high moisture levels. The goal is to keep the ground stable so that when the frost lifts and conditions improve, we can harvest without damaging the soil's delicate "crumb" structure.

*DORMANCY ISN'T A SIGN OF A DYING PLANT; IT'S THE PLANT'S WAY OF 'CHARGING ITS BATTERY' FOR SPRING*

### THE WEATHER WATCH (PAISLEY, RENFREWSHIRE)

#### CONDITIONS:

High frost frequency followed by heavy seasonal rainfall.

#### THE GROWER'S NOTE:

*“The frost we've had is actually beneficial. It helps kill off certain soil-borne pests and naturally breaks up heavy clay soil, making it easier for roots to breathe once the thaw begins”*

### PRO-TIP FOR THE MONTH

**For Trade & Landscapers:** You can still lay turf in January! As long as the ground isn't frozen solid, dormant turf is actually very hardy for installation because it isn't "stressed" by heat. Just ensure you don't leave rolls stacked on site for too long; they still need air.

#### For Homeowners:

Stay off the grass when it's frozen! Walking on dormant grass can snap the frozen leaf blades. Because the plant is sleeping, it cannot repair that damage until spring, meaning those brown footprints will stay visible for weeks!