**Indoor turf test a success; golf applications evolving**

**From Staff Reports**

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Golf courses with heavily shaded areas that spell death to turfgrass could benefit from a new technology developed for indoor stadiums by Michigan State University researchers.

MSU scientists report success already, saying their invention survived well in Detroit's Silverdome during recent soccer play, and it will be used there again for next year's World Cup soccer tournament.

"Turfgrass science being relatively new, we've caught up a lot on our ability to maintain grass under hard conditions," said Dr. David Gilsrap, coordinator of MSU's turfgrass management program.

So how did the scientists overcome growing grass in a stadium that has no natural light, and where athletes' cleats dig and cut?

"One possibility would be for regulators on problem areas," Dr. John Trey Rogers, Paul Rieke and John Sier share the accolades for the solution. Rogers explained that they mixed three Kentucky bluegrasses — one of which was chosen for its shade adaptability — with three perennial ryegrasses — also with one variety chosen for shade tolerance. The blues comprised 85 percent of the total mix.

The mix was grown on paper much at a Southern California sod farm and was put on a high-sand root zone similar to United States Golf Association greens specifications. When the sod was ready, it was transplanted to 2,000 hexagonal metal boxes filled with six inches of topsoil. The boxes, or modules — about 40 inches on a side, 7/12 feet across and weighing 3,000 pounds each — were transported to the Silverdome.

The hexagonal boxes — Schenley's drawing board on the bleachers — would be easy to tear up. Movers could move the modules to a side, 7-1/2 feet across and weigh three Kentucky bluegrasses — one of which was chosen for its shade adaptability — with three perennial ryegrasses — also with one variety chosen for shade tolerance. The blues comprised 85 percent of the total mix.

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