

SPORTS TURF ASSOCIATION — QUESTIONNAIRE

Over the past several months, we have distributed questionnaires at Field Days, other functions, and with Membership information.

To date we have received 48 completed forms (31 from Parks & Recreation Dept's, 15 from School Boards and Universities, and 2 from Industry and Suppliers to the turf industry). These have been submitted from across Canada and we publish the statistics for your information.

Of the 31 Parks and Recreation Dept's reporting, a total acreage of 27,570 acres is being maintained with 5361 acres of sports turf. This includes 8 stadiums, 2 golf courses, 1 cemetery, 3 lawn bowling facilities, 6 school properties, with the balance being parks, open spaces and boulevards. Total staff to maintain this acreage was reported as 1495 full and part time or 1 employee per 18.4 acres.

Of the 5361 acres of sports turf, 1440 acres were reported as irrigated, representing 27%. Primary types of turfgrass varieties were Kentucky bluegrass, creeping red fescues, perennial ryegrasses, some bentgrasses and some tall fescues utilized mainly in the western provinces. 23 of the 31 municipalities reporting carried out overseeding on sports fields on an annual basis. 28 reported a program of aerating and topdressing. Times fertilized per year ranged from once to as many as seven times, with the majority fertilizing twice a year. We feel this depends on the type of facility, its usage and the availability of funds.

The major problems in maintaining sports turf were listed as (1) overuse and overbooking; (2) use in wet conditions; (3) unauthorized use; (4) costs; (5) compaction; (6) drainage; (7) short growing season (Nfld.); (8) threat of withdrawal of broad leafed herbicides from the marketplace. 25 of the 31 municipalities have a spraying policy for herbicides in effect.

28 reported increased usage of facilities, one reported no increase and two reported decreased usage.

Of the 15 School Boards and Universities reporting (5 school boards, 10 Universities and Colleges) a total acreage of 4200 acres is being maintained with 1238 acres of sports turf. Total staff maintaining this acreage was 171 full and part time or 1 employee per 23.7 acres. 228 acres of the sports turf is irrigated, or 18.4%.

Grass types used are the same as those utilized by the municipalities.

12 of the 15 reporting indicated an overseeding program in effect, with 14 of the 15 aerating and topdressing. Fertilization annually ranged from once to five times with the majority fertilizing twice annually.

Management problems listed in order of importance (1) overuse and overbooking; (2) no irrigation; (3) costs; (4) weed control; (5) compaction; (6) availability of time to do the work.

13 of the 15 school boards and universities reported the use of herbicides.

13 reported increased usage with two staying the same.

* * NEW PUBLICATION * *

"Softball Field And Complex Specification Guide"

This fourth edition — 1988 publication is a guide which has been prepared by the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) Public/Private Complex Committee, with assistance from various organizations.

The purpose of the specification guide is to ensure standardization in the planning and construction of a softball playing field or complex.

With over thirty million participants in softball, it becomes more difficult to secure adequate playing fields that will accommodate this growing quantity.

This guide provides information to those interested in building a better softball playing field, including some of the following items; the playing facility, construction guidelines and a complete listing of essential items i.e. bleachers, backstop, dugouts, etc.

This 40 page booklet offers many suggestions and key components to develop and construct a softball facility and is supported throughout with many illustrations.

Although this booklet is written for the American

market, it contains many of the basics which are applicable to our facilities.

Finally, of interest, it is an eye opener to realize that a large number of privately owned softball facilities are now established in America. Could this be a trend coming to Canada? We need only to look at the past development of privately owned indoor racquet facilities to see how lucrative a market this can be. With over thirty million participants, who could resist not developing such facilities? The fact that most municipalities are taking on the "business" approach to operations and maintenance only confirms that better maintained and well operated facilities are in demand by the public sector, to whom we are accountable.

Members interested in obtaining a copy of the above-noted publication can write to:

Amateur Softball Association
28001 N E 50th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73111 (405) 424-526

Please note, there may be a \$6.00 charge, so I suggest you call to confirm. Should you have any further questions pertaining to this information, please call me, Ron Dubyk at (416) 392-2550.