

# What Are You Doing About Water?

COMMENTS FROM EDITOR MICHAEL BLADON

**W**e need to begin immediately to educate people as to better use of our water resources. As populations multiply and the demand for more sports fields increases, the situation becomes more critical.

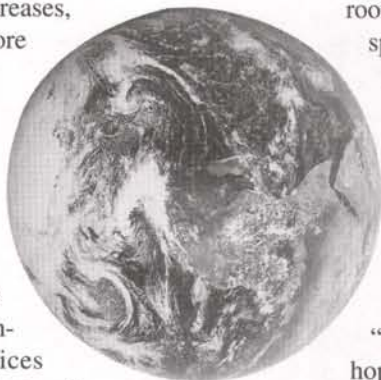
Researchers James Beard and R.L. Green wrote: "The main cause for excessive landscape water use in most situations is the human factor. The waste of water results from improper irrigation practices and poor landscape designs, rather than any one major group of landscape plants."

We need then to start looking to the future and asking some questions about water as it relates to our sports fields. What is your municipality, university or school doing about water and water bans where your fields are concerned? These are outdoor classrooms. Shouldn't they be budgeted for in the same manner as building maintenance and repair?

What is your water source for irrigation purposes? Are you using recycled water? It is estimated less than 5% of water used for domestic, turf, agricultural, industrial and environmental purposes in the United States is recycled water. If there were statistics available, would Canada be any different? How much are you willing to pay for water for your fields? What about the safety of the players? Are your

turf facilities sand based? How will they survive with water shortages?

The time is now to plan ahead for water. There is a need to develop deeper rooted, more drought tolerant species of grasses. In a letter to the editor of *Irrigation Business and Technology* magazine (July/August 2001) Dr. Lyman S. Willardson, Professor Emeritus, Utah State University, writes:



"Don't be confused by the hope that increasing irrigation efficiency is going to generate vast quantities of water for new uses. The only water available that we are not currently consuming is water running into the oceans on the coastlines of the world. We can change the way we use the water and the distribution of the water between users, but we cannot create more water by being more efficient. I think this situation is referred to as a zero sum game. What one water user gains must be given up by another."

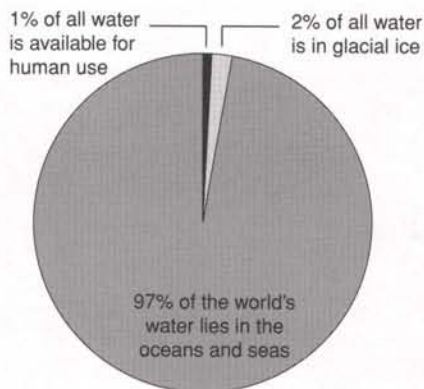
In *Water Everywhere*, Dr. Marc Cathey states, "Water is the earth's primary chemical under its greatest challenge."

What are you doing about water? ♦

— *Water Everywhere* is the preface in *Water Right: Conserving Our Water, Preserving Our Environment* published by the International Turf Producers Foundation, telephone 847-705-9898, email [Turf-Grass@msn.com](mailto:Turf-Grass@msn.com).

## World Water Facts ...

Human demand for water has risen at remarkable rates as a result of both increasing population and water use. Exacerbating the situation is the fact that the 1 percent of available water is being spoiled by various forms of pollution, thus reducing its use for our consumption. It's time to begin examining *all* of our various water uses.



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