

# International Turf Researchers Meet in Toronto

PAM CHARBONNEAU, OMAFRA TURFGRASS SPECIALIST

**D**uring the week of July 15-20, 2001, roughly 450 international turfgrass scientists convened in Toronto for the IXth International Turfgrass Research Conference. There were over 200 scientific presentations made over the four days. Your Association President, Jane Arnett-Rivers, and some of her staff volunteered their time and were able to take in some of the sessions.

## Supina Bluegrass

There was some interesting technical information presented at the conference that has some relevance to Ontario sports turf managers. John Sorochan of Michigan State University presented his findings on the suitability of supina bluegrass (*Poa supina*) for irrigated sports fields. He looked at different seeding ratios of supina bluegrass and Kentucky bluegrass (0, 5, 10, 25, 50 and 100% *Poa supina*). He also imposed two fertility regimes on the species mixtures as well as plots that received wear and plots that did not receive wear treatments. The bottom line for all of this is that the supina bluegrass does very well under wear treatments and it increases in a species mix when wear is imposed. The results of the two different fertility regimes were inconclusive. In one year the supina bluegrass content decreased more significantly with the high fertility vs. the low fertility and in the following year the results were the opposite. His results indicate that on irrigated highly trafficked sports fields that a seeding mixture of 5-

10% *Poa supina* with *Poa pratensis* is ideal. Considering the fact that the *Poa supina* seed is very expensive, a 5-10% mixture is affordable for this purpose.

## Increasing Internet Use

Of particular note at this scientific conference were the dozen papers presented in an Education and Information Technology Symposium. Most of these papers talked about using the internet as an education tool for turf managers. The topics included in this symposium included:

- a web-based turfgrass species selection tool
- a turfgrass soils laboratory designed for web delivery
- specialty instructional modules for turfgrass students and professionals
- Turf-Doctor: A web-based expert system for turfgrass problem solving
- an electronic journal for turfgrass science

The latter, an electronic journal for turfgrass science promises to be very interesting. The idea behind it is a journal that would take various subjects (such as soil fertility, soil compaction, stress physiology) and do an extensive, in-depth scientific literature review. It would also interpret the scientific literature. This is what I refer to as the bottom line of the research – what does it mean to me? This would include a practicum to relate scientific results to field practice, again, relate the sci-

entific results to the real world that you as turf managers have to deal with. This journal would be a web-based electronic format journal. This idea sounds very promising and would be very good for sports turf managers, sports turf consultants and people like me who need to be able to transfer research results to the end users.

I think that the abundance of information on web-based delivery of turfgrass courses, whether they be university courses or continuing education courses, shows how important the internet is becoming to us as turf managers. It is greatly increasing the possibilities for formal learning, information gathering and trouble-shooting. The beauty of it all, is that we can educate ourselves without leaving our office or home. ♦



## STA NEWS CLIPS

**Young Pitchers:** In a survey, a group of 28 US orthopedic surgeons and coaches recommended that 12-year-old baseball pitchers be limited to 68 pitches per game, two games per week. They also advised that youngsters not be taught to throw curve balls until they are 15.



— The Globe and Mail, August 27, 2001

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