UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL EVENTS:

July 4-8, 1994 Second World Scientific Congress of Golf. St. Andrews, Scotland. Invitational and volunteer papers will be organized in 3 themes: The Golfer; Equipment, and The Golf Course. the last encompasses the turfgrass-agronomic topics. Poster paper title submissions are due by February 15. Lodging available at the University of St. Andrews.

Contact Dr. Martin Farrally, Congress Director, Department of Physical Education, University of St. Andrews, St. Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DY, United Kingdom.
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July 27-29, 1994 American Sod Producers (ASPA) Summer Convention and Field Days. Newport, Rhode Island.

Tours will play a major role in this year's Summer Convention, with both ASPA-member farms and the University of Rhode Island (URI) Agricultural Experiment Station being featured in this day-long event. At URI alone, you'll see National Turfgrass Cultivar Evaluations for high- and low-maintenance of Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, tall fescue, fine fescues, and bentgrass. Other test-plot high-lights include commercial and experimental fungicides, nitrogen use, organic amendments, weed control, and low-maintenance areas.

Sodco, Inc. located in nearby Slocum, Rhode Island will host the Field Day portion of this Summer's ASPA show which will be highlighted by equipment demonstrations, exhibit displays, and the third-annual ASPA seed test plot.

The Newport Islander Doubletree Hotel will be headquarters for the Summer Convention.

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RESEARCH SUMMARIES:

Turf benefits and soil physical enhancement resulting from augmentation of sandy clay and clay loam turfgrass root zones with randomly oriented, interlocking mesh elements by S.I. Sifers, J.B. Beard and M. Hall, Texas A&M University.

The feasibility of using randomly oriented interlocking 50 x 100 mm mesh elements in sandy clay loam and clay loam root zones was evaluated. Ratios of mesh elements volume-to-soil volume of 0.0, 2.5, 3.75 and 5.0 kg of mesh per cubic meter of soil, installed to a depth of 150 mm (6 in.) were assessed. Both the sandy clay loam and the clay loam were turfed with Tifway bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon* x *C. transvaalensis*) and maintained at a 15 mm (0.6 in.) mowing height, by weekly mowing. Parameters assessed were compression displacement, lateral turf tear, divot size, divot opening turf recovery rate, ball bounce, traction, surface hardness, turfgrass quality, water infiltration rate, and soil moisture content.

Results of the sandy clay loam study for the first 2 years following turf establishment revealed a 28 to 34% reduction in divot length, an average 14 day reduction in divot opening turf recovery time, and a 12% reduction in surface hardness when the mesh system was present. Results for the clay loam revealed a 42 to 46% reduction in divot length, a 21 day reduction in divot opening turf recovery time, and a 17% reduction in surface hardness. The other parameters assessed on both soils also showed significant beneficial response from mesh inclusion.
Significance. This study indicates that the randomly oriented, interlocking mesh matrices are effective in turf surface stabilization and environmental enhancement of sandy clay loam and clay loam soils for sports uses, similar to the findings reported earlier for high-sand root zones.