

## JB VISITATIONS

### Oregon - September.

Made turfgrass technical assistance visitations to the main football-sports stadium at Oregon State University in Corvallis and also with representatives of the Portland Municipal Stadium. Both currently have artificial turfs and both plan to convert to natural grass fields. The extremely intense, frequent rainfall of the Pacific northwest, particularly during the fall football season, is a considerable problem and was one of the reasons they went to artificial turfs. Now with the well drained, high-sand root zones, especially when stabilized by the interlocking mesh element system, they have a viable alternative to the artificial surface, especially for intensively used fields.

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## JB COMMENTS

Comments on US trends in the use of natural versus artificial turfs are in order, particularly for our international readership. For both outdoor professional fields and major stadiums at universities the trend has been to convert from an artificial surface back to natural turfgrass. In the past five years there have been many stadiums where the field surface has been rebuilt. There is only one prominent field where the artificial turf has been replaced by another artificial turf and that is at Michigan State University in East Lansing.

The situation where artificial turfs have continued to be used has been in multi-use, indoor stadiums. Even in this situation there is advanced planning for an indoor domed stadium in Phoenix with a retractable roof capability where the planning is focused on a natural turfgrass field. Projections are for it to be used principally for professional baseball competitions.

## UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

**October 29-November 2, 1995. American Society of Agronomy-Crop Science Society of America-Turfgrass Annual Meetings.** St. Louis, Missouri, USA.

Approximately 100 papers, both oral and poster, will be presented on recently completed turfgrass research. A highlight will be a Monday symposium and evening program featuring the 40th Anniversary Celebration of Division C-5 Turfgrass.

Contact: American Society of Agronomy, 677 South Segoe Road, Madison, Wisconsin, U.S. 53711

Phone: 608-274-1212

Fax: 608-273-2021.

**February 9 to 11, 1996. 67th International Golf Course Conference and Show of the GCSAA.** Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, Florida.

Contact: Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, 1421 Research Park, Lawrence, Kansas, U.S. 66049-3859

Phone: 913-841-2240

Fax: 913-832-4455

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## UPCOMING JB VISITATIONS

Provided for Institute Affiliates who might wish to request a visitation when I'm nearby.

- October 28 to Nov. 1 - St. Louis, Missouri.
- November 4 to 9 - Montpelier, France and London, England.
- November 18 to 25 - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- November 27 to 29 - Chicago, Illinois.
- December 5 to 8 - Columbus, Ohio.
- December 11 to 14 - New York, NY.