Ultimate Field Cover Protection

Manufactured in North America, COVERMASTER® covers are made from the widest available materials to limit the number of seams and can be custom designed to your requirements. We also offer the widest range of colors in the industry.

With more than three decades of experience and our commitment to achieve complete customer satisfaction, COVERMASTER® field covers are recommended by more groundskeepers than any other.

Ultimate Field Cover Handling

The TARP MACHINE™ (left photo). Attached to any 14 HP tractor equipped with a PTO, it rolls the cover on and off the field in a minimum of time.

The TARPMADE™ (right photo) stores any size cover. Strong and lightweight the 28” diameter plastic roller is complete with safety end caps and is available in three standard lengths.

“RUTGERS CORNER”

“Turfgrass Species and Soil Conditions Affect Irrigation Requirements”

by Dr. James A. Murphy, Specialist in Turfgrass Management

Many factors influence the water requirements to grow turfgrass. A healthy, high-quality turf may need up to ½ inches of water per week to keep it growing vigorously under hot, dry, windy summer conditions. This total water requirement includes both rainfall and irrigation. Turfgrass will require much less water when the weather is cool or cloudy. Turfs that produce a deep root system will require less frequent irrigation than a shallower rooted turf. In many cases, rooting is limited by poor soil conditions and subsequently such turfs require more frequent irrigation to produce healthy vigorous growth and an acceptable playing surface.

Turf-type tall fescue will require less frequent irrigation than Kentucky bluegrass, if it can grow a deep root system. In many cases, however, tall fescue rooting is limited by poor soil conditions and, subsequently, such turfs require as much watering as Kentucky bluegrass to look good and maintain healthy vigorous growth. Perennial ryegrass will typically have poorer drought tolerance than tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass.

Turf, or any plant, should be irrigated in a manner that applies enough water to moisten as much of the root zone as possible. A soil probe can be used to determine what the average rooting depth is in a turfed area lawn. If the roots grow down to 6 inches deep, irrigate to moisten the soil to that depth.

In addition to rooting (soil) depth, the quantity of water to apply is also a function of the soil’s texture, organic matter content, structure, and bulk density. Examples of the effect of soil texture on soil water availability are provided in Table 1. From Table 1, it is evident that the amount of irrigation water applied in a single event is predicated on the soil’s ability to hold water. Sands typically can only be irrigated with a ½ to 1½ inch of water at a time, whereas a silt loam can have 1½ or more of water applied in a single irrigation event (provided that the water is not applied too intensely resulting in runoff).

Continued on next page.

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Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey 3 July/August 2002

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Continued from page 2 "Rutgers Corner"

Table 1. Available soil water for various soils.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Soil Texture</th>
<th>Available Soil Water</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>inches per foot of depth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sands</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loamy Sands</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandy Loams</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loams</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silt and Clay Loams</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clays</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adding organic matter (e.g., peat, compost) to soil will increase the water holding capacity of a soil. Unfortunately, the structure of a soil is often destroyed during earthmoving operations and typically creates a very high soil bulk density. High bulk density soils will not only suffer from poor water infiltration but also low soil water availability. Thus, turf grown on soil damaged by compaction will be extremely prone to drought stress because it dries out very quickly. To improve your ability to conserve water, devote considerable effort to loosening (cultivating) any soil that is compacted during earthmoving operations. Cultivation with an agricultural subsoiler, chisel plow and disking equipment prior to establishing a turf will greatly improve the capacity of the soil to avoid drought problems (high frequency of irrigation) after establishment.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

RUTGERS

July 31 - Rutgers Landscape Turf Field Day, Adelphia Plant Science Research Station, Adelphia, NJ. (Learn about the research on turf grasses to improve your turf).

August 1 – Golf & Fine Turf Research Hort. Farm II – Ryder’s Lane, North Brunswick, NJ

For information call: Bea Devine (732) 821-7134 or Dick Caton (856) 853-5973 or (732) 932-9711 ext. 135.

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SFMANJ

August 8 – Field Day at Bernards Twp’s Harry Dunham Park, a day loaded with equipment demos, five ways to attack your goal mouths, writing specs, maintenance programs and more. 8:00am to 3pm. Fliers were mailed in June. Call Eleanor at 908-236-9118 for info.

NEW JERSEY RECREATION & PARKS ASSOC.

September 25 – Skatepark Risk Management Workshop - 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Red Hill Activity Center, Middletown, NJ

Contact: NJRPA at (732) 588-1270.

Registration: $80.00 NJRPA member, $100.00 non member

NEW JERSEY TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

December 10-12 - New Jersey Turf and Landscape Expo 2002, Taj Mahal, Atlantic City, NJ. (Athletic Field Educational Sessions begin Wed., Dec. 11 from 4pm to 6pm & Thurs. Dec. 12 from 10am to 3:30pm with annual SFMANJ meeting at 1pm, Thursday).

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Did you know? If you store your string trimming line in a bucket of water it will remain softer, less brittle and will last longer.