

Continued from page 17 "One Sports Field Managers"..

fungus became the next consideration. Although a light application of a fast acting water soluble nitrogen is recommended to alleviate the symptoms of Red Thread we felt the potential increase in top growth caused by the application was not warranted based on the extent of the Red Thread we observed.

All three fields started to look a little hungry around the end of May and it was agreed that we would apply 1.5 pounds of nitrogen per thousand square feet utilizing methylene urea. This particular product has a small amount of urea for immediate response with approx. 50% being slowly water soluble and the remaining portion being released by the microbial action of the soil similar to the urea- formaldehyde we used for the renovation of the one field. The difference being, methylene urea incorporates a higher percentage of slowly water-soluble nitrogen with a little less water insoluble nitrogen, giving it a faster release pattern than the UF. In contrast methylene urea has a longer residual affect than most of the coated urea products along with a lower salt index. It's a matter of matching the product with the desired response.

There is little if any difference in the quality of each of the fields even though we used different products to accomplish our objectives.

Its now August and the soccer teams are using all three fields. I guess that's job security. ▲

**Jim Hermann is a Certified Sports Field Manager and President of Total Control, Athletic Field Maintenance and Consulting. jimtc@att.net*

"Question & Answer"

by Jim Hermann, CSFM

Question: This year it seems as though we have a bumper crop of crabgrass. What is the right way to deal with this problem?

Fact: Crabgrass is a summer annual that germinates, matures, reseeds itself and dies within the confines of one calendar year. The seeds germinate and small plants emerge in the late spring or early summer after soil temperatures reach or exceed 55 degrees for an extended period of time. The young crabgrass is coarse textured and light green in color. Initially, as an immature plant, crabgrass really doesn't seem too competitive or invasive. As it matures crabgrass has a very prostrate or horizontal growth habit, which interferes with the existence and development of desirable turf. These mature crabgrass plants reseed before dying with the first frost thus setting the scene for next year's generation.

Answer: The correct answer is that there is no single right or correct way to deal with crabgrass. The best answer to this question lies in your ability as a sports field manager to assess your individual turf program and as such the degree to which crabgrass infestation impacts on the objectives of that program.

There are a number of ways to deal with crabgrass control. You can treat in the spring with a preemergent

control product or you can treat in the summer or fall with a selective post-emergent product. You can even treat with a product combining both pre and post-emergent qualities thereby extending the application window of that product in the late spring, early summer. In certain situations a non-selective post-emergent (total kill) application is warranted.

Now, what does all this mean? A 'post' emergent crabgrass control product is a product that controls the crabgrass after it has emerged and is visible within the stand of desirable turf. A 'pre' emergent crabgrass control product is a product that prevents an anticipated infestation of crabgrass by interfering with the seed germination. 'Selective' means that you have discretion on what plants you want controlled based on the label of the product chosen. 'Nonselective' means you have little discretion on what plants are affected by the application. A complete understanding of the label description of any product is required by every applicator prior to the application of that product. It should be understood that most preemergent crabgrass control products also interfere with the germination and establishment of desirable turf seed.

As a sports field manager, my main objective is to maintain my fields in a 'safe' and 'playable' condition. If I can't shut a field down and crabgrass is the only existing turf cover, it would be my decision to leave it. Once this decision is made, a long-term plan would need to be considered in order to correct the problem in the future. This could include a late fall seeding after the cool weather has killed or severely compromised the development and competition of existing crabgrass. Slice seeding is recommended for this procedure. A follow-up application the following season in the late spring of a crabgrass control product would be indicated. This application should be made after the new seeding has emerged and established in the spring.

If in late summer, it is decided that there is a significant amount of desirable turf within an infestation of crabgrass, the crabgrass could be treated selectively with a post emergent product. In this situation overseeding of desirable turf could be accomplished earlier in the fall while still being effective due to the earlier elimination of competition caused by the crabgrass. The crabgrass control product label should be referenced to insure that seeding is not accomplished too soon after the crabgrass control application.

If the field can be shut down for the fall season, the following options exist.

1. If desirable turf is non-existent or at best not worth considering, a non-selective herbicide could be applied to kill all existing vegetation and overseeding accomplished after the label recommended wait time.
2. If there is a significant amount of desirable turf, a selective post emergent product could be applied to eliminate the crabgrass and seeding could be accomplished after the label recommended wait time has elapsed.

Continued on next page.....

Continued from page 18 "Question & Answer"...

The decision would then need to be made on how to deal with the crabgrass problem the following season. Crabgrass thrives in compacted soil of low fertility and hot dry weather. Providing an environment conducive to an aggressive, healthy turf is the most environmentally conscientious approach to any and all pest control. This environment would include but not be limited to proper soil pH, adequate soil aeration, adequate soil moisture and adequate nutrient availability. An important outside influence contributing to the control of crabgrass is proper mowing management. ▲

"Sports Turf News"

TURF-TEC DIGEST -Volume 9 Number 2 – Aug. 2003

*By: John Mascaro

STMA - New Logo for STMA.

The National Sports Turf Managers Association has a new logo for the association. They felt the logo is easier to read and the cleanliness makes it look more professional. (Photo on Website only! See below) Start Planning now for the STMA National Conference and show.

The STMA National conference and show will be in San Diego, CA in January, 2004. The exact dates for the STMA's 15th Annual Conference & Exhibition are January 21 - 25, 2004. For

updates go to the STMA website at <http://www.sportsturfmanager.com/>

New Tagline for STMA

"STMA: Experts on the Field, Partners in the Game" The tagline takes an everyday phrase "an expert in the field" and plays upon it to get across that STMA members are the absolute "experts" both in the field of sports turf and on the playing field and field management issues. "Partners in the Game" portrays the professionalism, and positions. STMA members on equal footing with others in the organization or athletic department. The tagline is a catchy, easily recognizable phrase to be used for marketing purposes. Public Relations Positioning Statement "The sports industry can count on the healthiest and safest playing fields because sports turf managers are unequaled in expertise and professionalism."

STMA Members Forum.

There is a new feature on the Sports Turf Managers website called the "Members Forum". This question and answer forum is for members of the STMA National and is an excellent way to get questions answered and also find out what works for other sports turf managers. To find the forum, go to the website at <http://www.sportsturfmanager.com> and then click the tab in the upper right corner to logon. Once you have logged on you should go to # 2 in the STMA Top Five called "Member Forum Q & A".▲

* John Mascaro is editor of Turf-Tec Digest TO SEE THE REST OF THIS NEWSLETTER ONLINE WITH PICTURES > <http://www.turf-tec.com/aug03.htm>



What's New?
covermaster.com
The web's most comprehensive site of protective sports surface covers.

Baseball infield covers come in standard and custom sizes

Full size covers for football and soccer are readily available

WHAT OTHERS SAY...

Very good... highly recommended...
Dunham Wright, Facilities Supervisor,
Northeast Louisiana Univ, Monroe, LA

Experience with Covermaster has been outstanding... appreciate special attention...
Ray Tanner, Head Baseball Coach,
Univ. of South Carolina, Columbia, SC

Excellent quality with competitive prices...
Johnson Bowie, Associate AD,
Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA

Delivered in perfect condition... best product I looked at...
John Milardo, Supt. of Parks,
City of Middletown, Middletown, CT

From 1-10, your company is a 10...
Jim Simmons, Facility Mgr.,
Buckingham Little League, Ft. Myers, FL

Great service... the best...
Chip Baker, Asst. Baseball Coach
Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL

Covermaster takes extra step to meet customer's exact needs...
Gary Mayse, Asst. Gen. Mgr.,
Wisconsin Timber Rattlers, Appleton, WI

Response time was great... recommended by groundskeeper of St. Louis Cardinals...
David Hooplin, Alton American Legion Baseball, Alton, IL

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 **TARPMATE™** (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.



FREE VIDEO



COVERMASTER
MASTERS IN THE ART OF SPORTS SURFACE COVERS

CALL TOLL FREE
1-800-387-5808

www.covermaster.com
E-MAIL: info@covermaster.com

MEMBER
Sports Turf Managers Association



COVERMASTER INC., 100 WESTMORE DR. 11-D. REXDALE, ON, M9V 5C3 TEL 416-745-1811 FAX 416-742-6837