Control, and results, you can see!

When Toro introduced the first VT3™ Video Central Irrigation Controller last Summer, it offered you a whole new world of flexible control and simplicity. We call it "pen-point" control; users call it a godsend. But we didn't stop there. In response to your needs and your requests, we've continued to add new features, enhanced capabilities. Now, there are three different models to choose from, plus three options to make them even more effective. One is a flow screen, with a moving graph showing real flow (not calculated), so you'll know if your pumps are performing efficiently. A second option is our new Rain-Guard, which automatically cancels your program on a rainy night; you don't have to be there! Third is a remote control capability, enabling you to operate or monitor your system from one PC to another; for example, from your home, to avoid an emergency trip to the course. Now isn't that the kind of control you should have? You'll get it only from Toro. But don't just take our word for it; you must see VT3 Video to believe it. Call The Man from Toro today, let him give you a full demonstration, at no cost or obligation.

The Toro Company
Irrigation Division
Dept. WTT-685, P.O. Box 489,
Riverside, CA 92502

Circle No. 143 on Reader Inquiry Card

Excellence in Irrigation®
If you’re not using Daconil 2787 on your golf course, you don’t have many alternatives.
Sure you’ve used other fungicides. Even tried one or two of the new systemics. But they didn’t measure up to diseases like dollar spot and brown patch. Tees, greens and fairways had a lot of problems. And you had a lot of headaches.

Unreliable, inconsistent disease control is the biggest reason more and more superintendents are getting back to regularly scheduled applications of Daconil 2787 fungicide. Because Daconil 2787 is the most effective and reliable fungicide you can use on tees, greens and fairways.

Daconil 2787 has a proven record of performance when it comes to delivering superior control of ten major turf diseases including: dollar spot (and benomyl-resistant dollar spot), Helminthosporium (leafspot and melting-out) and large brown patch.

What’s more, Daconil 2787 resists wash-off. So it’s always out there working even during heavy rains or watering. There’s no need to add a costly spreader/sticker for full and even plant coverage because it’s already built in to the formulation.

And there’s never been a documented case of resistance in over 15 years of use.

Plus you just can’t beat Daconil 2787 for economy either. As we’ve been pointing out for the last two years, Daconil 2787 is the most cost-efficient fungicide you can use from tee to green.

So this season make your fungicide Daconil 2787. It’s the one fungicide you can count on to save you from a lot of disease problems and a lot of headaches too.
Overseeding from page 30

The turf type tall fescues are becoming more popular for athletic fields, home lawns and other grounds areas.

The preferred grass species for home lawns in the northern United States is Kentucky bluegrass. The many improved cultivars now available have such genetic diversity that there are few situations where at least one cultivar won’t be adapted.

There are cultivars adapted to sun or shade, high or low maintenance and they are all attractive. Kentucky bluegrass should be overseeded into a lawn at a rate of two to three pounds of seed per 1,000 square feet. This rate is slightly higher than what might be used in bare soil, but it compensates for the reduced germination that can be expected in what are often less than ideal germinating conditions.

The turf type tall fescues are becoming more popular for athletic fields, home lawns and other grounds areas.

For the reduced germination that can be expected in what are often less than ideal germinating conditions.

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One of the greatest threats to the life of your lawn is thatch. Thatch can starve and strangle a lawn to death through the build-up of dead and decaying material which works like a thatched roof to seal off your lawn's bed. This "thatched roof" prevents air, water, fertilizer and nutrients from penetrating to the roots of your grass, which is especially harmful during the spring and fall when your lawn needs fertilizing.

Fortunately there's an easy solution to this deadly threat that doesn't involve a lot of time consuming raking, raking and raking. That solution is the SNAPPER Thatcherizer. This affordably priced option attaches to any SNAPPER Hi-Vac rider, self-propelled mower or lawn tractor. Its gentle but thorough raking action combines powerfully with our unique, patented Hi-Vac system to loosen and vacuum away even the toughest thatch deposits. And when you add one of SNAPPER'S grass catchers, with capacities of up to 30 bushels, you've got a dependable team that will keep even the largest, most demanding grounds handsome and healthy.

The Thatcherizer is just one more fine example of SNAPPER'S commitment to excellence in lawn care. With a complete line of walk and riding mowers, tractors, tillers and snowthrowers, we have a machine suited for every job; plus a full selection of versatile attachments to help those machines work even harder.

And because they're SNAPPER'S, you know they are engineered for quality, durability, and reliability. Which means fewer problems, and more profit.

So visit your SNAPPER dealer today for a look at the Thatcherizer and the complete line of fine SNAPPER products. Because when it comes to dealing with thatch, and delivering a beautiful lawn, SNAPPER has it in the bag.
With millions of users, thousands of facilities, the previously neglected turf ballfield is gaining the public’s respect. Now it needs public support.

Public Sports Turf:
Drastically in Need of Standards

by Bruce F. Shank, executive editor, and Ron Hall, assistant editor

Orphan Annie and public sports fields have a great deal in common.

Both receive only minimal attention as wards of the state and have the potential to rise to greater status.

The big question is, who will be the Daddy Warbucks of public sports turf?

A significant number of organizations, including this magazine, are trying desperately to find the answer.

A summit of all major public sports turf groups was held at the USDA Turf Research Center in Beltsville, MD, in late April to get the ball rolling.

The public sports turf market has the potential to expand the overall turf market as the professional lawn care market did in the 1970’s.

This long-delayed market will boom because the public is demanding better, safer fields while public agencies face increased liability for injuries occurring on public fields.

Greater awareness of injury liability and skillful promotion of safer, better built and maintained fields to Parent Teachers Associations and public field user groups, will cause budget roadblocks to collapse under taxpayer pressure.

Roadblocks are not just financial. Current maintenance levels are recognized as inadequate for intensive use. Field construction standards used to build most of today’s fields are resulting in poorly-drained, worn-out fields. A major reconstruction effort will be needed after adequate construction and maintenance specifications are developed.

Maintenance Practices*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practice</th>
<th>Percentage of Respondents Doing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>fertilization</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>weed control</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aerification</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>irrigation</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>insect control</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>disease control</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Types of Fields Maintained*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Percentage of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>baseball/softball</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tennis</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>soccer</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>football</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>basketball</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>golf course</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scope of need

In 1983, the National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations in Kansas City counted 14,086 schools involved in football, 13,380 in baseball, 14,414 in track and field, and 4,454 in soccer. Add to these figures the more than 12,000 park systems in the U.S. with a varied assortment of fields.

The scope of public sports turf continues to snowball when you consider junior colleges, state universities, and municipal recreational facilities.

Another perspective of the market is provided by looking at the size of public field user groups. There are more than 2.2 million children participating in 7,000 Little League® programs, more than one million kids playing in other organized summer baseball and softball leagues, and 173,000 teams competing under Amateur Softball Association rules. Add the growing popularity of soccer leagues, and extremely serious over-demand for a limited number of fields becomes undeniable.

Liability

This over-demand only becomes important to public field decision makers when kids get injured and the liability of the public agency is threatened. A recent Weeds Trees & Turf survey revealed schools and parks carry an average of $1 million in liability insurance.

Liability insurance used to provide public agencies with comfortable protection against serious financial loss. The continued on page 40
Subdue. The most effective fungicide against Pythium blight and damping-off.

Pythium weather. High temperatures, high humidity and high anxiety. Once Pythium takes root, it can destroy turf within hours.

Unless you take a grass-roots approach to Pythium. With Subdue.

Subdue works both on contact and systemically.

Subdue fights Pythium blight and damping-off — as well as downy mildew (yellow tuft) — in two ways. On contact, Subdue destroys the fungi in the soil. Systemically, Subdue prevents disease from within grass plants. That's because Subdue is water soluble — easily absorbed by roots. So Pythium — and now, downy mildew — don't have a chance.

Subdue also controls costs.

Subdue's systemic action means longer, more effective residual protection. Fewer applications. Lower chemical costs. And savings in maintenance and labor. And Subdue's low application rate — 1 to 2 fluid oz. per 1,000 sq. ft. for 10 to 21 days on established turf — makes Subdue the most cost-efficient protection you can buy.

Before Pythium weather strikes, subdue it. Use Subdue in a preventive maintenance control program. And get a good night's sleep.

Ciba-Geigy, Ag Division, Box 18300, Greensboro, NC 27419.
HOW TO TAKE OUT SURFACE FEEDERS AND GRUBS IN ONE SWELL FOOP.

To take out surface feeders like sod webworm larvae, chinch bugs, billbugs, and flea beetles, just follow these simple steps.

Step one, get some ®OFTANOL 2 Insecticide. It's the liquid formulation of OFTANOL. If you think OFTANOL is too expensive to use on surface feeders, check out step two.

Step two, mix it at the economical rate and spray where the bugs are. It'll work.

The same product, OFTANOL 2, does a bang up job on grubs. Mix it at the recommended rate and spray it on. Use OFTANOL anytime, as a preventive in the spring or as a curative, whenever grubs are a problem.

Surface feeders and grubs, two serious problems with one serious solution. OFTANOL 2.

OFTANOL is also available in a granular formulation. Always read the label before use.

OFTANOL 2.
WHEN YOU'RE SERIOUS ABOUT SURFACE FEEDERS AND GRUBS.

Mobay Chemical Corporation
Specialty Products Group
Box 4913, Kansas City, Mo. 64120

OFTANOL is a Reg. TM of the Parent Company of Farbenfabriken Bayer GmbH, Leverkusen.

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financial loss to injury claims. But, insurance companies today are actively researching injury rates on public fields for possible rate increases. In the future, insurance premiums may possibly be lower for properly constructed and maintained fields. Then, and possibly only then, decision-makers will move to provide the budgets, equipment, and personnel to keep fields safe.

**Demand and injury liability will force public agencies to take field construction and maintenance seriously.**

**Golf leads the way**

The National Golf Foundation was the first to record the growing dominance of the public sports facility in 1983 when it discovered 85 percent of all regular golfers played public courses (daily fee and municipal). Forty percent of frequent golfers played municipal courses, although these courses represented only 16 percent of the total number of all types of courses.

Clearly the golfer is depending more and more on municipal and daily fee courses. In response to increased demand, more municipal courses are hiring contract maintenance companies, such as American Golf Corp., Los Angeles, CA, are growing rapidly.

If an organization like NGF existed for football, softball, baseball, and soccer, a similar or perhaps stronger case for support of public sports turf could be documented. Statistics for both the number and types of fields and number of users are badly needed.

Another sign of concern for public sports turf is the increasing number of former golf course superintendents holding the titles of park superintendent or stadium facility director.

**Private sports facilities**

In the WTT survey it was discovered only 10 percent of leagues playing on public fields pay a significant portion of maintenance costs. More than a fifth of the leagues playing on public fields, however, perform some maintenance tasks.

While a public facility by definition should be open to all taxpayers, intensive use by one or more groups should be supported with additional user fees. Intensive use hours can be limited for the benefit of general taxpayers and the turf.

When sports facilities, such as multi-field softball centers, are profitable on a private basis, then two conclusions can be drawn. First, the public is willing to pay for scheduled use of quality fields. Secondly, the quality of public fields is considered sufficiently lower to pay for private fields.

It follows that landscape maintenance contractors can build a case for better sports fields for a reasonable price. The WTT survey showed 11 percent of schools and parks contract out part of their field maintenance. Dramatizing this possibility is the fact that 71 percent of the school and park officials polled said they lacked the manpower to accomplish needed sports turf maintenance.

Furthermore, the superintendents responded that equipment expenditures were of most concern to them (64%), more than labor (41%) and more than chemicals (21%). Equipment leasing and contract maintenance are alternatives to rising equipment costs.

Considering that 46 percent of park and school superintendents work with no budget growth and 15 percent with falling budgets, public agencies are being forced to make hard decisions.

**Case by case interest**

The attitude of public officials in response to public demand is very important to the attention sports fields receive. A winning team or local media coverage may create the dedication needed for adequate field care. More often fields are lumped into the overall physical plant budget simply because they exist, not because they have special needs.

Sports fields must be treated as a unique maintenance function. If the public agency is unable to provide staff for necessary care, then contract maintenance should be used.

Field maintenance contractors need to sell a package specifically designed for sports fields. Bids should meet recognized maintenance standards for specific types of fields.

Public agencies are currently at a loss for such standards. No national park or scholastic agency can currently provide maintenance standards to local schools or parks. The only way they have any idea of what is needed is to contact extension. Extension often lacks these standards as well.

Without standards budgets are impossible to build. Once standards are developed realistic budgets can be established.

Maintenance budgets for the park and school superintendents range from $200 to $3 million. The average maintenance budget was nearly $250,000 and the median was $55,000.

When the status of public sports fields is raised to an appropriate level, budgets should not be a problem.

Public golf course budgets are actually higher than daily fee maintenance budgets as discovered in a WTT survey published in the January 1985 edition.

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issue. Maintenance and construction standards exist for golf, but not for many other sports fields.

There are roughly 160,000 acres of public golf courses in the U.S. WTT estimates there are at least 250,000 acres of public softball, football, soccer, and baseball fields in the U.S. Using National Golf Foundation statistics for rounds played on municipal courses in 1983 (5.5 million), revenue generated by municipal golf courses ($8 per round) was $44 million. This revenue paid maintenance costs. Some method of generating maintenance funds for public sports fields has to be considered.

A change in status must begin with development of widely recognized field construction and maintenance standards. Then, and only then, can our public sports fields leave the orphanage.