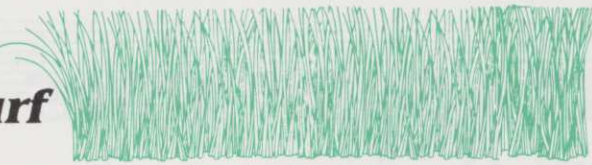


Selection of Cool Season Turfgrasses For Sports Turf



The demand on sports facilities by our large, urbanized, leisure-oriented clientele has been and will continue to be dramatic. The fields that serve this clientele must provide good playing surfaces that are safe for the users. Good surfaces are those that are uniform in color, density and texture; those that are capable of being clipped at a suitable height for the particular game; those that are free from pest activity and those that are firm tough and wear-resistant yet sufficiently "giving" to cushion players. Players, coaches, parents and adult users are demanding that these surfaces be safe for the intended activity.

If this seems like a tall order, it is! The answer to the order lies in the basic agronomic practices of choosing the right grass and soil, constructing the facility correctly, then maintaining the turf cover with proper mowing, fertilization, irrigation, coring and thatch control practices. These steps will

fail, however, if fields are overused by too many activities and grooming and recovery time is insufficient.

The turfgrass that is selected for a sports facility is dependent on three primary factors. First, the grass must be adapted to the local environment, with the components of on-site soil and climate taken into consideration. A well adapted species and variety of that species will give a good quality turf of high recuperative ability and a turf of reduced pest susceptibility. Second, the grass selection should account for the use the facility will receive. Specialized sports use as well as intensity of use are important considerations. Third, the intensity or level of management that can be provided should strongly influence grass selection.

With the cool season turfgrasses, tremendous improvements have been made in Kentucky bluegrasses and perennial ryegrass in the recent past. Varieties of excellent

color, texture, density, disease resistance and overall stress tolerance are available. New grasses in these species should be expected to perform well under lower maintenance regimes yet have good wear tolerance and recuperative ability.

Tall fescue has received much attention from breeders in the past few years and the new generation of turf-type tall fescues reflect that attention. The new grasses are of better color, finer texture, higher density, better disease resistance and are capable of tolerating closer cutting heights (although 1-1/2 inch or higher mowing is recommended). Each new generation of tall fescue varieties should continue to improve in quality.

Abstract of talk delivered at Nov. 1987 STMA Annual Meeting in Dallas, Texas by Dr. Victor A. Gibeault, University of California at Riverside.

Coming Events

December 6, 7, 8, 1988

North Central Turfgrass Exposition
Pheasant Run Resort
St. Charles, Illinois
Contact:

Roxanne Dwyer,
Executive Director,
Illinois Turfgrass Foundation, Inc.
435 North Michigan Avenue
Suite 1717
Chicago, IL 60611-4067
312-644-0828

December 6, 1988

Symposium on the Characteristics and Safety of Playing Surfaces (artificial and natural for sports turf). To be held at the Sheraton Phoenix.
For more information and the site of the symposium contact:

Kathy Dickenson
ASTM
1916 Race Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-299-5480

January 9-13, & 16-20, 1989

Cornell University
Turfgrass Short Course
Ithaca, NY
Contact:

Joann Gruttadavrio
Extension Associate
607-255-1792

January 10-14, 1989

Turfgrass Short Course
Mississippi State University
Contact:

Dr. Jeff Krans
Department of Agronomy
P.O. Box 5248
Mississippi State, MS 39762

January 13-15, 1989

STMA-First Annual International Sports Turf Conference and Show
Dodgertown, Vero Beach, Florida
Contact:

STMA
400 N. Mountain Avenue
Suite 301
Upland, CA 91786
714-981-9199

February 9-12, 1989

GCSAA Conference and Trade Show
Anaheim Convention Center
Anaheim, CA
1-800-GSA-SUPT

February 13-14, 1989

Special IOG Sports Turf Tour and Seminar
Sponsored by STMA
If interested, call STMA
714-981-9199 or Cal Poly,
714-869-2218

March 21, 1989

Sports Turf Institute
Cal Poly, Pomona
Contact STMA
714-981-9199

"Influence is what you think you have until you use it."