



Cross section of single-tier Purr-wick rootzone.

conserve both water and nutrients."

One of the major advantages of the Purr-wick system is the freedom it gives Genoff to take a square space and turn it into a number of different field configurations. "Since we have portable goalposts, I can actually rearrange things to provide five or more different fields," he reveals.

"I make sure the Forty Niners have the best turf possible between the hash marks all the time. We use one field at a time, switching from field to field on a weekly basis," he continues. "That gives me time to rest, repair, spike and remark the other field." Last fall, Genoff wasn't satisfied with the center of either field, so he removed two sprinkler heads and turned both fields east to west. When he advanced to the Super Bowl, he removed a third head and set up a field down the middle facing north and south.

Following practice, Genoff sweeps the field used that day to remove any loose turf or debris. Before mowing, he also drags the field to lift any turf knocked down by players. "The rollers on the Turf Pro smooth out any divots or bumps," he adds. When he is finished for the day, both fields have a definite striped pattern.

During the winter, Genoff mows every other day and sweeps once a week. This past winter he core aerified, toppedressed with 100 tons of lapis sand, and dragged the fields in six different directions. This March, he drill-seeded the fields with three pounds per 1,000 square feet of A-34. "When the mini-camps started last month the fields looked new again," he said proudly.

Maintaining artificial turf was new to Genoff, but he has mastered it quickly. No marking is required, since the

lines, hash marks and team logo are actually colored carpet inserted into the green Omniturf.

The sand dressing on top of the carpet does need to be brushed frequently and irrigated periodically. "The Omniturf field has its own irrigation system," says Genoff. "We had a small problem with wind blowing the sand around at first, but I've got a handle on it now."

There is one other innovative section of turf Genoff and Eagle are proud of: the training track. At the request of the trainers, Eagle designed a turf area 40 yards long and 15 feet wide. It slopes 3½ degrees from end to end. Players sprint down the slope to develop greater speed, or up it to stretch tendons and muscles.

"The two natural fields next to the Omniturf field are a sight to see," he concludes. "Who wouldn't be proud to work or play here? I always keep in mind that Ed DeBartolo, John McVay, Bill Walsh or Coach Seifert can look out their windows anytime to see the fields. But I also make sure the players and trainers like it. The bottom line is championship turf."

As the Forty Niners prepare for another season, the Denver Broncos and Phoenix Cardinals are installing similar natural and artificial turf fields at their training centres in arid regions of the country. Turf has been recognized as a major factor in the success of professional sport franchises. At the same time, the sports turf manager is playing an increasingly vital role in the winning formula.

"Nothing beats working for a world championship organization," remarks Genoff. "It's a dream job for me!"

Reprinted from sportsTURF with permission.

Changes to Pesticide Regulations Delayed

The Ontario Ministry of the Environment is not expected to amend Regulation 751 of the Pesticides Act until at least January.

Kent Groves, chairman of Green Care Ontario says that the ministry received over 500 responses from all areas of the pesticide application industry. Each response will be

reviewed individually. Since this is such a large job, Groves doesn't expect any new regulations until the new year.

Green Care Ontario is made up of members from 18 different associations, including Landscape Ontario. It was originally formed to respond to the Ministry of the Environment's proposed regulation changes.