

## CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

ticide free city". In this same year all pesticides were discontinued in the tree maintenance program and only insecticidal soaps are used now. Instituted a leaf pickup program all leaves were bagged. Took a six person crew 3 months to dump all the bags. Now different pickup method and leaves are turned with a front end loader from November until August twice weekly then run through a Royer Shredder. All this part of a recommendation as to alternative methods for maintenance of turf including aeration, mowing, overseeding, and topdressing, all parks topdressed once a year. Temperature of leaf compost kept between 140-160°F. Problem in winter because heat keeps frost out of ground. Very muddy all in all Ottawa only has green space no turf in parks. Many complaints particularly from homeowners and people with allergies worst time of year when dandelions in flower and seed spring and fall. Athletic fields receive a lot of use and are not in good shape.

### DR. RICHARD CATON Turf Conference *Mowing Heights: Myth v.s. Reality*

- Stated coaches' perceptions of turf cut too high:
    - a) impedes speed of the athlete,
    - b) hinders traction,
    - c) impedes ball roll,
    - d) has an impact on the event.
- Tobias Grether Study at California Tech. in California indicated that of 10 different areas studied there was no difference in speed of the athlete as far as different varieties of grass and different heights of cut. Grass was cut every day few people can tell difference, if turf has a well groomed look. If you increase height of cut you have more leaf area, more buds and greater root development hence greater sod strength. Choices are turf survival, too short turf thins out, more overseeding, more expensive. We have to demonstrate the integrity of keeping turf at an optimum height.

## BASEBALL

*Guelph Mercury*  
Dec. 26/90

### Bases May Prevent Injuries

Ann Arbor, Mich (AP) - Baseball bases that break free on impact would prevent 1.7 million injuries annually and save \$2 billion US a year in medical costs if used everywhere in the United States, a study says.

"Recreational sports injuries are expensive to families, employers and the entire community," said Dr. David Janda, director of the non-profit Institute for Preventive Sports Medicine.

Forty million Americans are estimated to play softball. Breakaway bases, attached to rubber grommets set in the ground, release on impact, unlike conventional bases.

### BROCHURE IS OFFERED

*Landscape Management*  
Dec. 1990

Dr. Bruce Augustin and Art Wick of Lesco, Inc. have authored a new brochure entitled "Athletic Field Turf Maintenance Handbook". The 12-page brochure gives specifications for a variety of athletic fields. To receive a copy, call the Sports Turf Managers Association at (702)739-8052 or Lesco at (800)825-3726.

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