

SPORTS TURF

Newsletter

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...for better, safer Sports Turf

ONTARIO TURFGRASS SYMPOSIUM

The first annual University of Guelph Turfgrass Symposium will be held from January 7 to 9, 1992. The program, Ontario's premiere education and equipment show, is the first of its kind to address the collective needs of all turf-related industries in Ontario.

"In the past," says Mira Soni, program manager, "numerous association-sponsored programs have invited industry suppliers to take part in trade shows of various styles to address individual sectors of the turfgrass industry. Never before has there been an opportunity for turf-industry suppliers to meet with all potential clients in Ontario at one major trade show."

A Continuing Education program, the symposium is co-sponsored by the Guelph Turfgrass Institute and the following groups:

- Nursery Sod Growers Association
- Sports Turf Association of Ontario
- Professional Lawn Care Association of Ontario
- Ontario Golf Course Superintendents Association
- Green Care Horticultural Association
- Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation

For more information contact Continuing Education, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario N1G2W1 Phone (519) 824-4120 Ext.3814 (Mira Soni)

E D I T O R I A L

The magazine *Northern Turf Management* states "grass is sprouting up on 30 major college and professional athletic fields that once were covered by a synthetic playing surface". This is good news for turf managers and athletes alike. It shows a growing confidence in our abilities to grow top quality, wear tolerant turf that will reduce injuries to players of all ages. According to Bruce Shank of *Golf & SportsTURF Magazine* even the insurance companies are asking about standards for hardness on athletic fields. Time and again this hardness of the field has been a problem as shown by studies including those at Penn State.

Foxboro Stadium installed a sand based system this year (home of the New England Patriots). University of Michigan also put in a sand-based field. Commonwealth Stadium in Edmonton is the only professional natural grass field in the CFL and it is not sand. Is sand the answer? Many park systems are building them. They offer a mud-free alternative at a time of the year when much of our rain can be expected. Write and tell us about yours and why aren't we promoting them more. Remember, it's the athletes that benefit!

Michael Bladon

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