

EDITORIAL

The first Annual Turfgrass Symposium was an outstanding success. The facilities were good, many people moved through the exhibit area and suppliers and distributors were well pleased with the numbers. Lastly - an excellent group of speakers.

Some of these speakers came from quite a distance and I for one would like to see less speakers, talk longer. In 30 minutes you do not get to say very much about sportsfield construction, drainage etc. Another idea worth looking at might be an all day work shop on construction of sports fields from the idea through to looking after the maintenance.

It is nice to see that the Sports Turf Managers Association in the USA is back on track again with chapters being a large part of that organization.

It would be useful for you the member to write and let us know what you think about chapters east\west of Ontario to better serve the needs of the area. The idea of perhaps meeting a few times a year and having a field day convenient to all. We have quite a few members in the west and several in the east. Write and give us your ideas and together we will make it work.

- Michael Bladon

WE GET LETTERS

Mike Bladon
Grounds Department
University of Guelph

Dear Mike:

Good to have a visit at the recent University of Guelph Turfgrass Symposium. You all sure put on quite a show! Trade show was excellent and sessions covered so many key topics that I simply couldn't get to all the places I wanted to. I had intended to sit in on your Sports Turf sessions and especially the annual meeting. Never got there! Part of the problem was spending too much time talking to folks wherever I was. There seemed to be a lot of interest in the topics I was assigned. Anyway, it was great to be with you and I look forward to keeping in touch.

Sincerely,

Eliot C. Roberts
Executive Director
The Lawn Institute
County Line Road, P.O. Box 108
Pleasant Hill, Tennessee

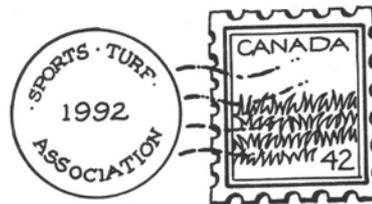
February 20, 1992.
Sports Turf Association,
82 Rodney Blvd.,
Guelph, On.
N1G 2H3

Dear Sir:

In reviewing my past collection of newsletters I noticed in a January, 1989, article submitted by Mr. Michael J. Bladon, "Trends in Sports Turf", that a natural fungus which kills dandelions was developed by Mr. Lee Burpee of the University of Guelph.

To my knowledge no following articles have been either published in this newsletter or other "trade" magazines. Consequently, I would ask for an update on this research if such is available.

Thank you,
Arthur N. Solvason
Community Services,
Parks & Recreation,
City of Regina.



Dear Art:

In response to your request for further information on the work that Dr. Lee Burpee was doing on fungal control of dandelions, I have to report that Dr. Burpee has left the University of Guelph to return to his native land at the University of Georgia. As a result the work in this area has diminished.

Prior to leaving Lee had done selections of fungi to find a superior strain. Making the selections, however, is just the beginning of the work to develop a biological control system. Work on the multiplication of the fungus, procedures for mass production with a suitable carrier and efficacy in the field have to be developed and measured. Then, as is the case with all chemical materials for weed control, the final product must be approved by the federal and provincial agencies. It must be proven that spreading the fungus will only kill dandelions and create no harmful conditions for other living organisms.

These are expensive and time consuming operations, so don't expect to see a product on the market for another 5 to 10 years. The time factor will depend on whether Dr. Burpee and others can convince a commercial company to invest the dollars required for testing and licensing. They, of course, must be able to project a 'good' return on their dollars. The processes in biotechnology are no faster or cheaper than chemo-technology. Thank you for your interest in this research.

R. W. Sheard, P.Ag.
Executive Secretary