

# SPORTS TURF **Manager**

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...for better, safer Sports Turf

## Sports Turf Association Office Hours

Mrs Sonja Schneider will be in the office from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The office phone number is (519) 763-9431. At other times a message may be left on the Voice Mail system. Please include the vital information of name, telephone number with area code, and time of calling. The office may also be reached at any time by faxing 519-766-1704.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Easter Greetings!!

It is a sincere pleasure to be addressing the membership as President for another two year term of office. I am honoured and appreciative of the trust and confidence the Board of Directors has placed in me to serve another term. One of my primary objectives will be to continue ensuring this Association serves its members in a manner that is honest, forthright, and responsive to the needs of the membership. Belonging to the STA must be an educational, professional and thought provoking experience.

We once again participated in a very successful Ontario Turfgrass Symposium at the Regal Constellation Hotel this past January. The event was deemed a major success with overall attendance up by approximately 100 delegates. The Directors and their staff did an excellent job arranging the event, especially at a new venue. Again this year Pam Charbonneau and the OTS Program Committee deserve special recognition for organizing a premier speakers program.

Unfortunately, the STA share of the revenue will be slightly lower than 1995 due to a reduced number of delegates identifying themselves as members of the STA. I express sincere thanks to all Sports Turf session presenters, and members who attended the educational seminars. The Annual General Meeting was a big success with a record turnout of members.

Plans are already underway for OTS 97 and a STA sub-committee has met to

discuss ideas. One suggestion we intend to pursue is having a session entitled "Sports Turf Managers Speak Out." This session will allow sports turf members to come forward and give a 15-20 minute presentation on some facet their sports turf management program. The session will not only allow ideas to be shared, but will also give members the opportunity to gain experience in public speaking. We are not looking for professional speakers, only people who have a genuine interest in sports field maintenance at their facility and wish to share their experiences with the group.

A Field Day for 1996 is still in the planning stages. The STA, along with several other industry associations, recently met at the GTI to discuss the possibility of having a combined Field Day at the GTI sometime this summer. This would be beneficial for both our members and suppliers since funds are becoming tighter and tighter for conferences and seminars. I shall keep everyone updated as plans proceed.

Since my last correspondence, the impact of the Ontario provincial government cutbacks have become fully known. In many cases it will have a dramatic impact on many sports field maintenance programs by municipalities, school boards, Universities and Colleges. The turf and landscape industry will suffer greatly in reduced sales of equipment, seed, sod, fertilizer and top soil. Not only operating, but capital budgets for renovations or new field construction have been dramatically slashed or deferred into the future. Employee moral in many cases is at an all-time low. Our employees and their families will suffer, and in the

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end the athlete will suffer injury through playing on fields which can no longer be maintained effectively due to reduced or eliminate resources.

However, with adversity comes the need for greater creativity and innovation. Some ideas to consider are leasing equipment instead of purchasing, pooling resources with another institution, town, or community and purchase a shared overseeder, topdresser or fertilizer spreader. Think about group or bulk purchasing tenders for products such as grass seed, fertilizer, sod, or top soil to receive discounts through volume purchasing.

If you are not charging User Fees for outdoor sports fields, then lobby your Council, elected officials, or administrators to approve User Fees for outdoor sports fields in your community. In most cases minor hockey has been charging it for years - why not athletic fields? If you are collecting User Fees, then review the percentage recovery rate, or rethink the field categories to maximize your revenue.

To end on a bright note I would like to officially welcome Harold Van Gool as a Director. Harold is affiliated with Plant Products and brings to us a wealth of knowledge and experience related to the horticultural industry and we look forward to working with him over the next two years.

As many of you struggle once again this year to try and deliver quality sports field maintenance programs, and satisfy the users of your facilities, I wish everyone much success with your athletic field maintenance programs this spring. May it be said "the winter has been kind to your turf!"

If you have ideas or comments on the Association or athletic turf maintenance do not hesitate to contact me or our Executive Secretary at (519) 763-9431.

Best wishes for better, safer sports turf.

*Christopher Mark*  
 President

## GTI HILITES

# Dollar Spot Disease Control

Dollar spot is one of the most common and destructive diseases of bentgrasses that are maintained in a close mowed regime. Dollar spot is characterized by beached spots about the size of a looney that may overlap under severe infections causing large, irregular areas of sunken dead turf. Individual leaves at the edge of the spots typically have straw-coloured bands across the blade with reddish-brown borders.

The pathogen (*Sclerotinia homoeocarpa*) enters the leaf through freshly cut ends and stomates when the plant surfaces are wet. Thus periods of wet weather or heavy dew and temperatures between 20 and 28 C are when the disease is most likely to occur.

When the disease is in the early stages of infection only the leaf blade is damaged and recovery is rapid. At more advanced stages the entire plant is killed and recovery is by spreading of adjacent normal plants over the infected area. Good nitrogen nutrition favours the recovery by increasing the rate of spreading of adjacent plants.

The search for more effective chemicals for the control of dollar spot is part of the continuing research program of Prof. Tom Hsiang of the Dept. of Environmental Biology at the Univ. of Guelph. In 1994 he compared several new chemicals against the two chemicals that are registered and recommended for control of dollar spot in Ontario; Daconil 2787 and Tersan 1991.

Twenty-five treatments were compared in four replications of 1 by 2 meter plots from July 6, to Sept. 1, 1994. The experimental area, except for uninoculated checks were inoculated with viable fungus two days after application of the chemicals to insure a high, uniform level of infection. Estimates of infection were made by estimating the number of infection centres on a plot at weekly intervals during the test period.

The influence of the various treatments on the dollar spot infection is recorded in Table 1. Ten spots/m<sup>2</sup> or less was considered to be satisfactory control. No phytotoxicity from any of the chemicals was observed.

During the 1994 growing season, July was much wetter than normal, and August had more typical warm, humid days and nights. Thus all inoculated plots had an extremely high disease pressure from July 20th onward.

Both the registered chemicals, Daconil and Tersan, gave excellent control, even at the high disease pressure. Two new chemicals, not yet registered in Ontario, also provided equivalent control.

The availability of new chemicals is to be desired as disease organisms are known to develop resistance after repeated applications of a chemical. Thus, the potential availability of an alternate control chemical is welcomed news. Even the rotation of treatment between Daconil 2787 and Tersan 1991 is worthy of consideration.

Figure 1: The influence of selected chemical treatments on the dollar spot infection of creeping bentgrass.

Treatment	Product (product/m <sup>2</sup> )	Interval (days)	Mean Number of Spots								
			7/6	7/13	7/20	7/27	8/3	8/10	8/17	8/24	9/1
			(spots/ 2m <sup>2</sup> )								
Uninoculated Check			0	1	1	3	4	4	68	11	28
Inoculated Check			0	1	36	203	210	210	228	325	375
Daconil 2787	180 mL	14	0	1	1	2	7	0	8	0	3
Tersan 1991	30 g	21	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1
Tersan + Daconil	95 mL + 30g	14	0	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Banner	31 mL	21	0	1	1	11	1	0	1	1	0
Banner	58 mL	21	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Eagle	15 g	14	0	0	8	1	1	0	0	0	0
Eagle	20 g	14	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0