



Knowledge is of two kinds. We know a subject ourselves, or we know where we can find information on it.

*Samuel Johnson (1709 - 1784)*

### **Turfgrass Integrated Pest Management Handbook**

Publication 816 - \$20

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Crop Technology Branch

This new turf publication has been designed as a field handbook and a study guide for IPM accreditation for the golf courses, lawn care and parks sectors. It contains basic information on IPM, IPM for diseases, insects and weeds that are found in turf in Ontario, IPM templates for golf courses, parks and lawn care, a turf disease identification key, a turf insect injury key and examples of pest monitoring sheets. This publication, along

with Publication 384, *Recommendations for Turfgrass Management* and Publication 162, *Diseases and Insects of Turfgrass in Ontario* provide you with a complete reference package on turf IPM for Ontario.

To obtain copies visit your OMAF Resource Centre [www.omaf.gov.on.ca](http://www.omaf.gov.on.ca) or phone 1-877-424-1300.

### **Special Offer from the Guelph Turfgrass Institute**

Turf IPM Reference Package containing the above 3 noted publications. Free shipping in Ontario (a \$13 value). To order, phone 519-824-4120 x 52501 or email [info@gti.uoguelph.ca](mailto:info@gti.uoguelph.ca).

### **Standard Guide for Maintaining Cool Season Turfgrasses on Athletic Fields**

Guide F2060-00 \$25 USD  
American Society for Testing and Materials

This guide covers the minimum requirements for maintaining cool season turfgrasses used for natural surface athletic fields. Practices covered include mowing, fertilization, irrigation, core cultivation, overseeding, and pest management. For further information or to order visit [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org).

## Central Irrigation Control Systems – It's Time to Consider

GARY SUPP, CID, TURF CARE PRODUCTS CANADA

Water is an integral part of plant health care. For sports fields we need healthy turfgrass to make sure that it is firm yet resilient enough to withstand intensive athletic activities. To maintain that turf we need supplemental watering, as normal rainfall patterns do not always mesh with community activity schedules.

**T**his additional watering can be provided by hand or hose travelers. But by far the most efficient precipitation pattern for an even distribution of water is that devised by nature in the form of rainfall. Our closest approximation to it is to design and install a uniform layout of water emitting devices either above or below soil level.

These "sprinklers" are controlled with a piping system. A series of valves allow us to introduce water into the pipe lines which are then directed over a landscaped area when and where we wish. This irrigation system makes it possible to be

an efficient water manager as well as provide for plant life maintenance.

This dual stewardship has thankfully been assisted by technology. Safe low voltage electricity can turn a valve off or on. Timing mechanisms as simple as mechanical gear boxes or as sophisticated as today's personal computer allow us to sequentially activate these watering systems. Like all other applications of automation technologies, this has freed people to pursue other activities.

Efficient management of these systems still requires frequent adjustment. If enough rain falls there is no need for

supplemental watering, so a timed landscape watering cycle needs to be halted for a period of time. If we are in the middle of a hot and dry summer or have a tournament schedule to meet, an increase in water replenishment may be required. If any cutting or aerifying equipment are needed to operate on the site, then the irrigation system must be scheduled to accommodate it.

Repair and replacement work is also a constant. Public interaction can sometimes lead to vandalism on park sites. As sprinkler systems age some of their components naturally stop performing.

This demand for irrigation system repairs and seasonal adjustments is more than possible to effectively manage for one site with just a single person dedicated to that purpose. As two, three, five or ten more sites are added for maintenance, there arises a need for assistance. This may