

SPORTS TURF MANAGER

... for safe, natural sports turf

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Bowling Green Construction Basics

LLOYD WOODS, NATIONAL GREENS ADVISOR, BOWLS CANADA

18TH ANNUAL STA FIELD DAY

With each new year bringing record-breaking attendance, this is an event you don't want to miss. It is being held Wednesday, September 14th at the Milton Leisure Centre. Our 2005 theme is *Environmental Stewardship: Healthy Soil... Healthy Turf*. See the inside front cover for session information. A full brochure will be mailed to all STA members.



Bowls, better known in Canada as lawn bowling, is a game that can be played as a social game or a competitive sport. However, no matter how one chooses to play it, lawn bowling is more fun and can be played with greater skill and finesse on a green that has been built with care and of course, is well maintained.

For quite a number of years, bowling greens have been built on a sand rootzone somewhat similar to golf greens and playing fields. However, unlike golf greens, etc., which are usually built with a sand/peat mix, bowling greens must be constructed using a pure sand rootzone to provide the hard, firm, damage-free surface and the fast pace needed for good bowling.

In most of Canada, optimal time for seeding is about August 20, which means that the schedule of construction should

be arranged so that the green is ready to seed on that date. Construction delays that prevent seeding on schedule reduce the time for turf growth and development before the onset of cold weather, so a realistic, rigidly adhered to building schedule is most important.

Design of the Green

The playing surface of a bowling green is an area of bentgrass from 37 m to 40 m square, levelled to plus or minus 3 mm. It is surrounded by a wooden plinth which retains the playing surface. Outside the plinth is a shallow ditch (200 mm to 380 mm wide) and beyond that is a backboard that retains a surround, raised 229 mm above the playing surface. The system of boards around the green is called the backboard/plinth system. → page 6

Above: Installing the first lift of the rootzone.