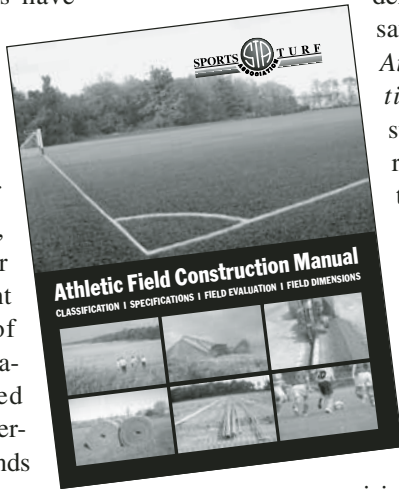


Turf Industry Seeks Construction Standards. STA Provides a Solution.

When setting out to build the next great playing field, professionals strive to create a masterpiece that will be used for generations.

Construction standards have been a missing link in the creation of the most effective and highly functional sports fields.

Commenting on the problem the sports turf industry has faced, Michael Bladon, former Grounds Superintendent at the University of Guelph, says, "Specifications could have saved grounds maintenance personnel and others thousands of dollars in corrective action when poor construction methods were used, partly because pertinent information was not readily available."



correctly the first time," says Bladon.

Landscape Architect Lawrence Stasiuk of the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects, adds, "Competitive athletes demand high quality and safe playing surfaces. *The Athletic Field Construction Manual* provides standards for five categories of field construction that will help designers determine the appropriate field design for the intended level of use and competition."

This classification system is based primarily on the root zone material and the provision of drainage, irrigation and lights. The resulting specifications for each category of field are based on the best available scientific information.

Bringing uniformity to the construction of sports fields, this manual is long overdue. Also included are more than 20 diagrams outlining the approved field dimensions for most sports fields using a turf surface.

The Sports Turf Association has moved to solve this issue through the creation of construction specifications in *The Athletic Field Construction Manual*. "The value of this manual to the industry is in the recognition of the need for a comprehensive set of specifications which, if followed or used, ensure that athletic fields are built

The Sports Turf Association has made the manual available through its website at www.sportsturfassociation.com. Bladon encourages municipalities, private enterprise, consultants, landscape architects and any involved in maintenance budgets to make use of this invaluable tool. ♦



Industry News

Green Steam Weed Killer

Rittenhouse is proud to introduce the latest product in our alternative weed control line. The Green Steam Weed Killer uses patented technology to produce 660° steam, which quickly kills weeds. Using high temperature steam is an effective alternative to chemicals for controlling annual weeds, grass and young perennial weeds. Even with a single application, the Green Steam can effectively eliminate many invasives. The Green Steam will not harm trees as their bark acts as an insulator, making the Green Steam perfect for controlling weeds around the their bases. In addition, the steam temperature can be controlled, thereby minimizing the damage to beneficial organisms in the soil. Not only does the Green Steam work well for weed control, it is also popular for sterilization purposes in greenhouses. For pricing and more information regarding the Green Steam Weed Killer, visit www.rittenhouse.ca.

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