

# Sports Turf Manager

*for better, safer sports turf*

## Summer 2009

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## Sand-Capped Fields

See pages 13-17 for an in-depth look at how to use drain tile installation and sand topdressing to develop a built-up sand-capped system over time. Michigan State U investigates this alternative to complete field renovation.



## Irrigation & Overseeding of Pesticide-Free Soccer Fields

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**A 2009 OTS Highlight Article.** Soccer, also known as the “beautiful game,” is the most popular sport in the world. It is estimated that 3.5 billion people worldwide either play or watch the sport. Almost 3 million people play soccer in Canada, making it the second most popular sport after ice hockey. Eighty four percent of these players are under the age of eighteen, with the number of soccer-playing kids growing every year. High quality, safe, natural playing surfaces are needed to keep up with the demands of this fast growing sport. With the introduction of Ontario’s Cosmetic Pesticide Ban, high quality, weed-free fields will be even more of a challenge to maintain.

In 2008, the Guelph Turfgrass Institute (GTI) joined in the soccer craze by establishing two fields at the research station. Kids and adults from Guelph Soccer, the city’s soccer association, enjoyed the fields on a daily basis while we conducted research. This article will outline how our soccer fields came into being, our partnership with Guelph Soccer, and the research we are conducting on these in-use fields.

### Bringing Soccer to the GTI

Sports fields have always been part of the vision for the Guelph Turfgrass Institute. Our Long Term Site Plan, written in 1994, stresses that we are “capable of supporting a complex of sporting and park facilities for more active forms of recreation.” In the winter of 2008, the idea resurfaced during a discussion of several turf industry professionals, spearheaded by David DeCorso, a local... → **page 7**

