

Sports Turf Manager

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STA Field Day Highlight: Putting IPM Into Action

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The implementation of the Cosmetic Pesticides Ban in Ontario has led to some pest control challenges for athletic field managers province-wide. With the amount of play that so many fields are subjected to throughout the season, the need for pest control is critical to maintain a safe playing surface. With one fewer pest management tool available to combat weeds and insects, a change in management methods is needed. Although many turf managers feel that pesticides are the top weapons in their arsenal, in truth many of you should realize that your ability to adapt and make decisions is even more valuable. This article is intended to provide tips for effective integrated pest management that are sustainable and utilize the most important tools in the box – your knowledge and experience.

The first point, and I can't stress this enough, is taking the opportunity to remain educated as much as possible in pest management. Too often, the use of a quick fix like pesticides can take the place of keeping up on understanding new pests and learning about and trying alternative cultural practices. Then when the routine

practice that is so relied upon is taken away, you find yourself already behind in new product information or making sure that you know your pests. Take advantage of field days, conferences and even spending a little time each week on the internet to really have a thorough understanding of the pests you are likely to encounter. The key to properly managing pests and abiotic



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COVERAGE**

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stresses is understanding the life cycles of the various weeds, insects and even the desirable turf, as well as the conditions under which they all thrive.

Integrated pest management involves the use of all available techniques to suppress pests in an effective and environmentally sound manner in an effort to sustain a healthy landscape. >>> **pg 14**



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