

On the Cutting Edge

OTS 2011, FEBRUARY 23 & 24, 2011, ROZANSKI HALL, UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

Sports Turf Specific Sessions



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

W6 11:15 am - 12:00 pm. Turf seeds vs. weed seeds: The ultimate competition for space and nutrients on a trafficked field. Kathleen Dodson, University of Guelph.

The public's expectations for safe, reliable, ready-to-play athletic fields puts particular pressure on sports field managers. An examination of the weed seed bank and the impact of overseeding with both perennial ryegrass and supina bluegrass will be discussed.

W7 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm. Artificial turf: The challenges and opportunities. Frank Cain, University of Guelph, Jay Todd, Downsview Park & Frank Erle, University of Western Ontario.

This panel discussion will focus on how staff and the training of staff are impacted when sports fields are altered from natural turf to artificial turf surfaces.

W8 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm. Alternative pest management: The Cosmetic Pesticides Ban two years in. Tennessee Propedo, City of Hamilton, Dennis Wale, City of Brantford, Jane Arnett, Town of Oakville & Pam Charbonneau, OMAFRA.

This panel discussion will give municipalities, from large to small, an opportunity to share how they are managing their fields in reaction to the Cosmetic Pesticides Ban. Discussion will focus on cultural practice basics "from the weird to the wonderful."

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24

T1 9:00 am - 9:45 am. Building your personal brand in the sports turf industry. Kim Heck, Sports Turf Managers Association.

The perceptions others have of you can enhance or damage your career in sports turf management. Learn how to create a strong personal brand that establishes you as a professional and essential to the operational success of your sports facility.

T2 9:45 am - 10:15 am. New technologies in turf irrigation. Dr. Eric Lyons, University of Guelph.

Irrigation and the application of water become increasingly important if other agronomic tools are limited in sports turf environments. With more turf fields making use of irrigation systems every year, turf managers can benefit from the development of important new technologies. This session will discuss these advances in irrigation, their opportunities and limitations and how turf managers can make the most of these new technologies.

T3 10:45 am - 11:30 am. Preparing Moncton for Atlantic Canada's first regular season CFL game: challenges of combining artificial and natural turf. Gord Horsman, City of Moncton.

To prepare for this major sporting event, the turf at Université de Moncton Stadium had to be repaired and converted from the World International Association of Athletics Federation's track and field standards to CFL standards. Of particular concern were the transition areas between natural turf and artificial turf in the end zones. Managing material requirements and work orders in time for the big day added to the complexity in getting ready for this event.

T4 11:30 am - 12:00 pm. Overseeding: Does it work? Dr. François Tardif, University of Guelph.

Overseeding is promoted as a technique to enhance turf competitiveness against weed infestation. What, however, is the true success rate of overseeding? Can techniques be improved? The results of a three year study on soccer fields at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute describe best frequency, methods of application and seed mix for overseeding.

General Sessions

W2 Guelph Turfgrass Institute Update.

W3 What is the future using corn gluten based products for weed control in turf?

W4 What have we learned this season about Fiesta™ and Organosol® for broad-leaf weed control?

W5 Growing turfgrass without conventional herbicides: Examining the role of alternative strategies.

T19 Using your computer, smart phone and social media to get your message across.

T20 Turf Things Microscopic. Using dissecting microscopes to see things that are not easily viewed with the naked eye.

T21 Supervising 2011: A lot more than a white hat and a pay raise!

[Browse the OTS brochure \(in print or online\) for more sessions and details!](#)

ONTARIO'S KEY ANNUAL TURF CONFERENCE

Speakers from both industry and academia will provide important insights pertaining to the OTS 2011 theme – On the Cutting Edge. Delegates will participate in sessions providing up-to-date information responding to the complexities of maintaining healthy turf in today's more restrictive growing environment. Sports turf managers, facilities, lawn care and golf course professionals and nursery sod growers can all learn from the many session topics: from pest and disease controls to safety and liability issues in turf environments.

Turf managers and staff will benefit from both learning sessions and the ability to network with colleagues in the turf industry. Attending OTS offers insight into best practices as initiated by leaders in turf sciences locally, across Canada and beyond.

Registration opened November 12. The deadline for early bird registration is December 17. Visit the conference website at www.ots.open.uoguelph.ca or call 519.767.5000 for more information.

Important Registration Details

EARLY BIRD DATE: DECEMBER 17, 2010. STA DISCOUNTS!

As an STA member in good standing, you qualify for lower association rates. In addition, others from your facility/organization who are not STA members qualify for the lower association rates when registered with a member. Send the registration in the same envelope, fax it at the same time, or make just one phone call to register. Visit www.ots.open.uoguelph.ca or call 519.767.5000 for more information.

QUOTABLE QUOTE....

By learning you will teach; by teaching you will learn.
~ Latin proverb




Top 10 Conference Tips

1. Plan ahead.
2. Set realistic expectations.
3. Use email to keep yourself on track, both at the conference and afterwards.
4. Write a daily summary of what you learn.
5. Share your ideas and experiences with colleagues.
6. "Divide and conquer" the program with colleagues for the most benefit to your institution.
7. Talk to people at the sessions you attend to create a network of new colleagues.
8. Attend sessions that will introduce you to new ideas rather than those where you might feel the most comfortable.
9. When you return home, set up an action plan (with milestones) and commit to reflecting on and assessing what you have learned.
10. Realize that the effect of attending a conference could be as subtle as a change in attitude.

— Joan Getman & Nikki Reynolds, *Educause Quarterly* Vol. 25(3), 2002 (as quoted by Warren Wilson, see citation pg. 7)

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