



Our roots run 25 years deep.

"Information is a source of learning. But unless it is organized, processed, and available to the right people in a format for decision making, it is a burden, not a benefit." William Pollard

# A Retrospective on Resources

The Sports Turf Manager, known as the Sports Turf Newsletter until 1995, has been published on an ongoing basis since 1997. It keeps sports turf professionals up to date with leading research, STA programs and activities, industry information and coming events.

Members of the Sports Turf Association and the greater turfgrass industry have access to complete back files of the publication through a partnership between the STA and Michigan State University's Turfgrass Information Center (TIC). The online digitized archive allows readers to browse year-by-year or search by word to retrieve PDF files of

articles. Looking for information published in the Sports Turf Manager? Visit www.sportsturfassociation.com/Publications/Sports Turf Manager/Archive and begin your search!

Sports Turf Association members enjoy complete subscriber access to the TIC's Turfgrass Information File, the most comprehensive publicly available collection of turfgrass educational materials in the world. Follow the Michael J. Bladon Educational Link to the Turfgrass Information File. Login at www.sportsturfassociation.com for access to the 'Member's Only' section of the website.

## TIC'S TURFGRASS INFORMATION FILE IS THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE COLLECTION IN THE WORLD



### President's Message

First of all, a very sincere welcome to our new members. We have enclosed information on the conference which is scheduled for March 9, 1988, and we will also be producing more newsletters. We thank you for your support of this fledgling organization.

We will be pleased to answer any queries you may have, information you may require, or any problems with your sports turf.

Annette Anderson, OMAF's Turf Extension Specialist has been working with the CGSA for an excellent first conference program. Dr. Clayton Switzer, Deputy Minister of Agriculture has already agreed to be our Keynote Speaker. James Watson, Vice President of Toro will also be in attendance.

Our board members have been working hard to get this fledgling association off the ground. Our secretary, Ron Dубык is co-ordinating the production of the Newsletter. Bruce Calhoun is working on

As autumn draws to a close, the students have returned to school and are using the sports fields for their practices. Hopefully yours is in good shape, as injuries can happen so quickly! When did you last inspect them? A week ago? A month ago? Do you have accurate records of the maintenance you performed this year? Will you be able to tell them this year? Will you be able to tell the insurance adjuster precisely what has been done to ensure safe playing conditions? **THE TIME IS NOW!**

*Sincerely yours,  
Michael Bladon (President)*

### Report on the Athletic Turf Field Day

indicated uses of different types of herbicides at different strengths for growth regulation. Lastly, delegates were shown Dr. Lee Burpee's work in trying to isolate a natural fungus as an environmentally safe way to kill dandelions.

Along with the distributors, your Sports Turf Association had a booth where delegates could pick up a brochure or membership application, a news release, and a questionnaire on different facets of Sports Turf.

At all, this was a very useful and worthwhile day. See also "Guidelines for Sports Field Management" which appears on the next page of this issue.

### WELCOME!

**To Our New Members**  
Paul Tuckler  
PAC Consultants,  
Smith Falls  
Everrett Huusama  
Town of Fidd  
Don Edw  
Metro Pa  
Mun. of ?



### EVENTS CALENDAR

March 14 - The Canadian Society of Landscape Architects Annual Meeting  
March 15 - The Ontario Turfgrass Association Annual Meeting  
March 16 - The Ontario Turfgrass Association Annual Meeting  
March 17 - The Ontario Turfgrass Association Annual Meeting

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As president for the next few years, my first task is to acknowledge and thank our immediate past president, Mike Bladon for being our anchor organizer, mentor, supporter, ambassador and very professional and progressive leader.

It has been through him and his various committees' hard work and long hours that our organization has come so far in such a short time, but we cannot all back on our laurels now. This Association has many goals and objectives still to accomplish. Some of these are:

- 1. to continue to increase our membership
- 2. to establish an executive secretary position
- 3. to develop a permanent Association headquarters
- 4. increase our funding support for research
- 5. establishing & operating our bursaries and scholarships
- 6. improve our mass source of communication - our newsletter to provide more up to date and practical information.

I'm sure with the enthusiasm and dedication shown by our newly elected executive committee we can start to accomplish these goals. In the end, we'll be able to continue to serve our members better. One other thing, I would like to personally thank Annette Anderson, our new Executive Secretary.



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Each issue of the Sports Turf Manager is a treasure trove of information for you. It is a source of information that you can use to improve your sports turf. It is a source of information that you can use to improve your sports turf. It is a source of information that you can use to improve your sports turf.

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### President's Message

Finally, at last for me and I am sure for many others, the best time of the year has arrived - Spring. After what seems like an eternity, we can get out and get going on all those plans hatched over the winter to get our fields in top condition.

It seems one of the annual rites of Spring is minor sports and reg groups, and high school teams, along with league play on fields before permission has been granted.

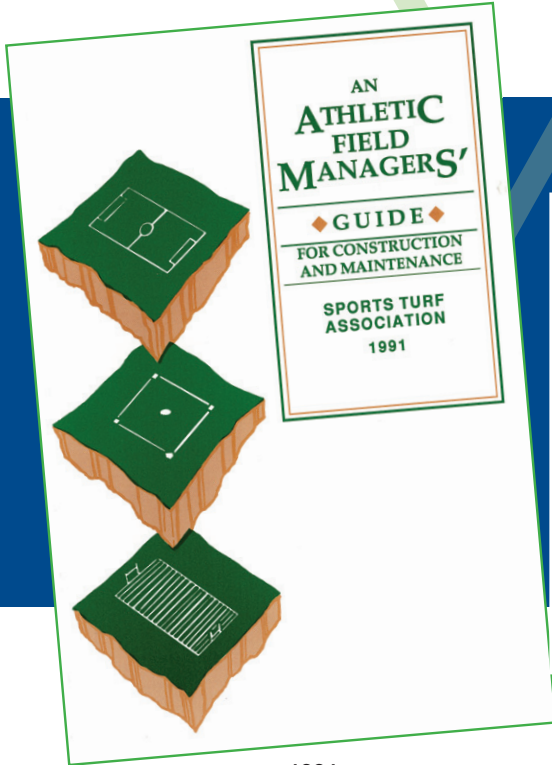
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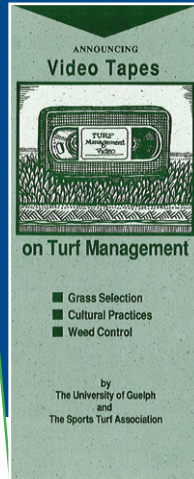
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# CELEBRATING 25 YEARS



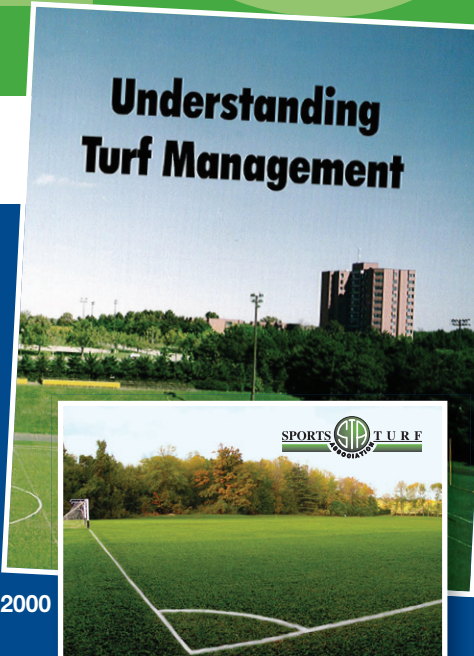
1991



1991



1997



2000



2008

## SPORTS TURF MANAGER

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### Controlling Turf Diseases

**Daniel Tremblay**  
THE ROLE OF SILICA IN IMPROVING TURF'S NATURAL DEFENSES

Fungal diseases are a regular turf problem for golf course superintendents. And the problem is made even worse by often appearing during the summer season when the course is at its busiest. Control methods are presently few in number, basically boiling down to the use of fungicides. Studies presently underway at Guelph University's Horticultural Research Centre, however, are working on alternatives to pesticide use.

In spite of all the money and effort invested over the last few years in research into the biological control of turf diseases, few new solutions are presently available that golf course superintendents could actually use. Improved turf care and the use of new disease-resistant cultivars can help prevent the appearance of diseases, but are not always sufficient.

During the summer, heat and humidity stimulate the growth of several fungi capable of attacking turf grasses. At the same time, golf turf is undergoing intense maintenance and suffers from several forms of

severe stress. Among them, heat, drought, predatory insects, foot traffic from players, and frequent low mowings not only make turf more vulnerable to various fungal diseases, but also weaken the plant by leaving the door wide open to pathogens. It is the combination of these factors that explains why diseases are so common during the summer months.

Below: Plants were shown in University of Guelph greenhouses. Half were grown without silica while the other half received fertilizer with silica. Results were conclusive. See page 9 for more details.

2003

## Sports Turf Manager

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1987-2007  
CELEBRATING  
20 YEARS

### Ontario Turf Seeds

We've done your homework for you and have put a list of turf seed available from Ontario suppliers. STM publishes this valuable information every 2 years.

### Sports Field Assessment

DR. ERIC LYONS, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, TURFGRASS SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

An OTS Highlight Article: Assessment is an important part of any management plan, whether talking about mowing, fertilization, irrigation or sports fields. It provides information about where to bring down mowers and what needs to be done in many cases, sports field assessment is not done regularly or at all. This article will explore some of the reasons why and will explore some common oversight in identifying assessment wells.

One of the most important steps of sports field assessment is to determine what is the problem. This is often the most difficult part of the process. It is not always obvious what the problem is, and it is often difficult to identify the cause. This article will explore some of the reasons why and will explore some common oversight in identifying assessment wells.

2007

## Sports Turf Manager

FOR BETTER, SAFER SPORTS TURF. SPRING 2010. VOL. 23, NO. 1

### Establishing Turfgrass Without Herbicides: Musings on the Future

Dr. Ken Carey, Department of Plant Agriculture, University of Guelph

In a situation where most effective herbicides are banned for sports field managers, how does a manager establish or renovate successfully? As of yet, there are no easy answers, but this article, I'll provide some approaches you might keep in mind if you're in that boat. Some are cultural or management principles that you know and apply systems such as ideas borrowed from where these questions have been faced for years. Hopefully some may be feasible for you, at least on a trial basis, and with the assurance that many of these approaches are being pursued actively in research programs.

Weed seed bank. Most areas that have had cover, have a bank of weed seeds that has accumulated from weeds on site, or have moved in with wind and water from off site. This is one of the main problems to turf management, we may have the luxury of time to repeatedly till the soil, allowing weed seeds to germinate and be plowed down to reduce this seed bank. Knowing what is likely to come up in your situation, first-hand observation, will allow you to anticipate the potential size and detail of the expected problem.

New rootzone material. Often, installation jobs involve bringing in new rootzone material, topsoil or sand, which has the potential to aggravate a weed problem (if the material is not weed-free), or help solve the problem, by burying it.

OTS HIGHLIGHT  
Continued inside on pages 12-13.

What Are We Replacing?  
There are three types of herbicides which need to be replaced in establishing turf (and for maintenance situations):  
1. Nonselective herbicides (e.g. glyphosate). These allow us to kill perennial weeds (and unwanted grass) prior to establishment.

### Weeds in Establishing Turfgrass

We've always dealt with weed pressure in newly established or renovated turf areas, so turf managers are well aware of some of the things necessary to consider:

2010

### Inside Features

TURF IDENTIFICATION | 21  
Dr. Eric Lyons lays out why today's turf managers need to know their turf seeding programs to determining the impacts of alternative management practices, turf ID is key!

15 JUST IN TIME FOR SUMMER. How to get a sports field ready in 70 days: exploring less expensive and time-consuming strategies.

25 SCHOOL TURF. Despite being an important part of the educational system, sports fields are often at the bottom of the funding "food chain."