Sports Turf Manager
FOR BETTER, SAFER SPORTS TURF. AUTUMN 2016. VOL. 29. NO. 3.

Going #BeyondTheBallpark: Jays Care and the Blue Jays Across Canada

Jays Care Foundation

Jays Care Foundation, the charitable arm of the Toronto Blue Jays, is dedicated to shrinking the opportunity gap and levelling the playing field for Canadian youth. Founded in 1992, Jays Care has invested over $18 million in Canadian youth; in 2016, Jays Care invested $5.23 million across the country to give youth the tools and spaces they need to succeed.

Rookie League is Jays Care's signature "Baseball for Development" program reaching over 8,000 children annually. Jays Care partners with like-minded organizations using baseball and other youth programming to implement the program teaching children the life skills they need to succeed in life. To deliver Rookie League, Jays Care partners with Boys & Girls Clubs of Canada, Toronto Community Housing, Right To Play, Pathways to Education, and the YMCA. Jays Care works with these organizations to train youth staff with the skills and confidence needed to run comprehensive youth development programs designed to teach children the importance of team work, cooperation and self-esteem. Rookie League seeks to provide youth with the skills they require to confidently approach life's challenges. The program is in 10 provinces and the Yukon Territory, reaching marginalized youth in 99 communities across Canada.

Challenger Baseball is a program born out of a partnership between Baseball Canada, Little League Canada and Jays Care Foundation. Challenger Baseball is an adaptive baseball program designed specifically to empower children and youth living with cognitive and/or physical disabilities. The program is designed to teach children and youth the core life-skills inherent to baseball including: teamwork, communication, determination, resiliency, inclusion, support and courage. Challenger Baseball is a fun and inclusive league that ensures every participant can play in a safe environment and set and achieve their own personal goals. Jays Care has opened two fully accessible diamonds across Canada and will unveil a third in the fall of 2016. The accessible fields are specifically constructed with a vulcanized rubber playing surface, unique field dimensions and to allow for wheelchair dugout accessibility.

Field of Dreams is Jays Care's primary granting program for capital spaces/infrastructure. The Field of Dreams grants program

(continued on page 6)

Inside Features

TURF CARE
Helping your business grow.

MORE COMFORT. MORE POWER.
MORE VERSATILE. MORE CONTROL.
Simply Superior.




COMMERCIAL EQUIPMENT

Tom Fischer, Sales Manager
705-791-4653

Andy Sandilands, Eastern Ontario
416-347-5056

Bill Martel, GTA, 416-606-6509

Derek Therrien, Ottawa
613-290-7403

Chris Emerton, Northern Ontario
905-715-6285

Mike Rossi, Municipal Sales
905-715-6797

S/W ONTARIO & NIAGARA PENNINSULA

Steve Conners, 519-319-0539
Aaron Campbell, 519-899-3023
Jason Sewell, 519-476-6548

THE NEW WORKMAN® GTX SERIES.

It's simple, you need a vehicle that can adapt to the wide–ranging diversity of your facility. With hundreds of options, choice of gas or electric power, two or four seats and loads of attachment points for endless customization, the new Workman GTX delivers – with room left in your budget. Call your Turf Care Sales Represenatative for more details.

www.turfcare.ca

TURF CARE PRODUCTS CANADA

200 Pony Drive, Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 7B6
T: 905-836-0988 | F: 905-836-6442
Medina: 519-349-2400
Mississauga: 905-836-0988 x 5404
Ottawa: 613-821-1880

TORO®

Sports Turf Manager

Volume 29, Issue 3, ISSN 1201-3765

is the official publication of
SPORTS TURF CANADA™
328 Victoria Road South
Guelph, ON N1L 0H2
Tel: (519) 763-9431
Fax: (519) 766-1704
E-mail: info@SportsTurfCanada.com
Web: SportsTurfCanada.com

SPORTS TURF MANAGER
is published quarterly by Sports Turf Canada™ for free distribution to its membership. Please direct advertising inquiries to Lee Huether at the STC office.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE
Ken Pavely, Ben Tymchyshyn and Lee Huether

PUBLISHER
Jackie Ranahan
Mach One Communications
Tel: (519) 846-0446
E-mail: jackie@thinkmachone.com

CANADA POST PUBLICATIONS MAIL SALES AGREEMENT No. 40031883

SPORTS TURF CANADA™ OFFICE HOURS
Staff are in the office from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Tuesday through Friday. At other times, a message may be left on the voice mail system. Please include the vital information of name, telephone number with area code, and time of calling. The office may be reached at any time by faxing (519) 766-1704 or via e-mail.

President's Desk

TAB BUCKNER

I trust you and your families had a wonderful Thanksgiving Day. I realize Thanksgiving was started as a fall harvest celebration but now on this day we must add to the things for which we are appreciative how truly fortunate we are to live in Canada.

Tab Buckner (R) presents Robert Witchel with our donation to the Jays Care Foundation at the Ontario Sports Turf Field Day September 22

On August 25, in partnership with the Western Canada Turfgrass Association, the first ever Alberta Sports Turf Field Day was held in the City of Calgary. It was truly a great event and the afternoon short-but-sweet rain squall did not dampen the outdoor actives. There were over 150 in attendance.

The Ontario Sports Turf Field Day was hosted by the City of Toronto on September 22. The weather was very cooperative with temperatures in the low 30's. Over 215 sports turf professionals attended this annual event. We recognized, in Toronto, some of our own: Greg Lampman from the Town of Oakville, the 2016 Sports Turf Manager of the Year, and Rachel Macmillan from the City of Toronto, the 2016 Robert W. Sheard Scholarship recipient.

Greg Lampman (R) Sports Turf Manger of the Year is congratulated by Eric Lyons, Director of the Guelph Turfgrass Institute, award sponsor

Tab Buckner chairs the morning events at the Alberta Sports Turf Field Day August 25

I would like to thank both organizing committees for their hard work and dedication to organizing these events. Thanks must also go out to our supplier companies. Without the generosity of our sponsors and participation of our exhibitors Sports Turf Canada would not be able to offer field days at a reasonable price point.

The STC Synthetic Sports Turf Field Safety and Maintenance Course also made its Alberta debut, October 4 at Olds College. According to the participant feedback it was an excellent learning experience and there were many enquiries as to when it will be offered again. Thanks, Olds College, for hosting this event!

I would like to announce, if you already did not know, that STC Executive Manager Lee Huether will be retiring at the end of this year. Lee has been with the association for 19 years. You will truly be missed and STC wishes you well in your new chapter. Anne Baliva has been hired by the association to replace Lee and she will start on November 8. Anne comes to STC with a wealth of association experience. Please welcome Anne on board! •

New & Returning Members

Alberta

Terry Yez
City of Leduc, AB

Peter Bos
Bos Sod Farms
Coaldale, AB

Andrew Bos
City of Chestermere, AB

Ontario

Kevin Branch
Town of Richmond Hill, ON

Jack Coutts
Upper Grand District School Board
Guelph, ON

Rachel Macmillan
City of Toronto, ON

Gord Small
Cub Cadet Commercial
Kitchener, ON

Gary Taylor
GTI Irrigation Services
Newmarket, ON

Ron Crozier
University of Toronto
Scarborough, ON

Max Fusco
TDI International Ag
Guelph, ON

Murray Cameron
City of Burlington, ON

Gregory Patterson
Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment
Toronto, ON

Robert McHattie
Leading Edge Earthworks
Minesing, ON

Bob Dippel
Pure Seed
Mount Forest, ON

Joe Barbas
Core Equipment
St. Catharines, ON

Andrew Hall
Steve Oxley
City of Guelph, ON

New Brunswick

Amy McLennan
City of Saint John, NB

Event Calendar

Association Events are Highlighted in Green

November 1 to January 31, 2017
Sports Turf Canada
New Member Referral Program
sportsturfcanada.com

November 14 to 17
Sports Turf Canada
Sports Turf Management & Maintenance Course
Guelph Turfgrass Institute
Guelph, ON
sportsturfcanada.com

January 15, 2017
Sports Turf Canada
Sports Turf Manager of the Year Award
Nomination Deadline
sportsturfcanada.com

January 24 to 27
Sports Turf Managers Association
Conference & Exhibition
Lake Buena Vista, FL
stma.org
Sports Turf Canada members can register at STMA rates login to sportsturfcanada.com

February 1 to 26
University of Guelph
Turf Managers' Short Course
Guelph, ON
turfmanagers.ca

February 15 to 17
Western Canada Turfgrass Association
Conference and Trade Show
Penticton, BC
/wcta-online.com

February 22 & 23
Ontario Turfgrass Symposium
University of Guelph
Guelph, ON
turfsymposium.ca

For up-to-date event information visit:

SPORTS TURF CANADA.com

Sports Turf Manager

FOR BETTER, SAFER SPORTS TURF. AUTUMN 2016.

"Autumn paints in colours that Summer has never seen!"

Inside this issue...

REGULAR COLUMNS, DEPARTMENTS & SMALL FEATURES

Opinions expressed in articles published in Sports Turf Manager are those of the author and not necessarily those of Sports Turf Canada™.

Deadline for Winter 2016 Sports Turf Manager: November 4

Jays Care Rookie League participants listen to instruction at Smythe Park in Toronto, which was refurbished courtesy of a $175,000 Field of Dreams investment.

enables Canadian communities to refurbish, design and build safe spaces for children and youth to play baseball, develop life skills and learn from positive role models. By the end of 2016 Jays Care will have invested over $8.15 million in capital spaces across Canada.

Field of Dreams applications are accepted once per year through submission via an online portal. Individual Field of Dreams investments cannot exceed $150,000 and must go towards either the building of new infrastructure; improving existing spaces to increase programming capacity, overall usage, safety, accessibility and inclusiveness; and/or a provision of capital investment in equipment. In order to evaluate projects in an objective manner and to ensure that the proposals which will have the biggest impact on youth are selected, Jays Care has developed a comprehensive rubric to guide the evaluation process. The key evaluation criteria includes a demonstrated need for investment, impact on increased levels of physical activity, number of children who will be impacted, and a preference towards investments where children are facing multiple barriers. Announcements and openings of new spaces are celebrated with alumni, players and Blue Jays executives who often travel all over Canada to be a part of the excitement in each community joining local dignitaries and politicians who often join Jays Care at these celebrations.

In 2014, Jays Care invested $71,000 in Corner Brook's Little Jubillee Field, which had become unsafe for youth to use. This investment went towards improving the playing surface, building a training area and other infrastructure improvements to the park. Jays Care also joined Blue Jays alumni and the Blue Jays Baseball Academy to facilitate a Honda Super Camp in the city. This has led to a baseball resurgence in Corner Brook with the number of baseball players in the city growing 65% in 2015 from 2014 and girls baseball participation rising 92% in just one year. Corner Brook is a pertinent success story and example of what can happen when youth are given a safe space to play.

In 2015, Jays Care partnered with the Miracle League of Ottawa, investing $210,000 to create "Jays Care Field," Canada's first fully-accessible recreation hub. Bryce Desrochers, a young 12 year old super fan with cerebral palsy dreamed of playing baseball like the Blue Jays players he idolizes. The Jays Care investment makes this reality possible as he was on hand at the 2015 opening, hitting his first home run and circling the bases like his Blue Jays heroes.

In August, 2015, Jays Care partnered with Right To Play, the Kenora Chiefs Advisory and the Ontario Ministry of Child and Youth services hosting the inaugural Beyond the Ballpark tournament in Kenora, Ontario. This tournament was the culmination of a Summer of baseball programming for 13 Ontario First Nations who had successfully run local Rookie League programs. Through the Rookie League program, 91% of First Nations participants reported learning not to give up. The Second Annual Beyond the Ballpark baseball tournament took place August 26-28, 2016 with 15 Ontario, British Columbia and Manitoba First Nations communities participating in this celebration of the valuable life lessons learned through sport.

Jays Care also teams up with a network of dedicated volunteers to form the Jays Care Community Crew, who participate in Baseball Diamond Makeovers across Toronto. Baseball Diamond

Members of the East Nepean Eagles and Rookie League participants from the Boys & Girls Club of Ottawa celebrate a $35,000 Field of Dreams investment to refurbish the "Eagles Nest" baseball diamond in Ottawa, ON.

Makeovers provide refurbishments to local baseball diamonds in need. A group of volunteers will meet Jays Care representatives for the day and engage in restoration tasks including weeding, edging, painting and fence setting. The goal of the day is to improve the condition of the diamonds for youth baseball including the Rookie League program. To date, Jays Care has refurbished 34 baseball facilities across Toronto in addition to a $1 million donation to the City of Toronto's Parks, Forestry and Recreation Department.

The positive impact Jays Care has on over 62,000 Canadian youth each year would not be possible without the incredible backing of Jays Care's supporters. There are many ways that individuals can get involved to help Jays Care go #BeyondTheBallpark to reach even more youth across Canada. Individuals can volunteer with Challenger Baseball, volunteer at our Rookie League Program in their local community, host a Fan Fundraiser for Jays Care, join as a guest at a Jays Care event, or simply make a donation to support the Foundation's programming.

Applications for 2017 Field of Dreams investments will be accepted beginning on September 15, 2016 and running through October 31, 2016. For more information, please visit jayscare.com. •

Jays Care and the City of Toronto

Rob Myatt, Operations Support Officer, Partnership Development Unit, Parks, Forestry & Recreation, City of Toronto outlines for us the long and impactful partnership between the City of Toronto and Jays Care Foundation.

Field of Dreams Grants (2000-2016)

- Over $1.5 million invested in 15 diamonds.
- Scope of work ranging from infield and outfield refurbishment, fencing, backstop, irrigation, lighting, pitching machines and batting cages. Many diamonds impacted are located in neighbourhood improvement areas.

Jays Care Community Crew Volunteers (2013-2016)

- Over 20 diamonds "spruced up" with 300+ volunteers. Jays Care Community Crew volunteers work alongside Parks sports fields crews to help keep City of Toronto baseball diamonds in top shape.

Rookie League with Toronto Community Housing Corporation (2012-2016)

- Partnership Development and Parks, Forestry & Recreation help program a fun day on Toronto Island with Toronto Community Housing Corporation/Rookie League staff and volunteers, plus 500+ participants.

Parks Sports Field Crew Training (2015)

- Jays Care Foundation and Rogers Centre grounds crew treated Parks, Forestry & Recreation sports fields staff to a day of baseball diamond/groundskeeping training. Staff participated in expert guided workshops on various aspects of baseball diamond maintenance.

Air Injection Systems Impact on Compacted Native Soil Athletic Fields

Kyley Dickson, M.S. and John Sorochan, Ph.D., University of Tennessee

Compaction of soils due to traffic on athletic fields is a common problem. Each traffic event increases the compaction and over time can become problematic. A result of compaction is increased soil bulk density, decreased water infiltration rates, and decreased macro-pore space (air filled). As compaction increases turf cover is reduced, and the injury potential increases. Due to the negative impacts of compaction on soils, cultural practices are needed to alleviate compaction. The traditional method to alleviate compaction of the soil is through core cultivation.

There are many cultivation methods that utilize different techniques to reduce compaction. Traditional core cultivation physically removes a core and is normally back filled with sand. The sand topdressing helps to increase drainage and dilute organic matter accumulation. Some techniques utilize water, sand, air, and other soil amendments to reduce compaction. These techniques work by injecting the material into the soil. Several of these tools have been used for years in the turf industry. The HydroJect introduced by Toro Company (Minneapolis, MN) is an example of high-pressure water injection into the soil. Previous studies have shown the HydroJect to reduce soil compaction in compacted turfgrass root zones. While high-pressure water has been found to be successful, a new high-pressure air injection system has recently been introduced. The air injection system injects high volumes of compressed air into the root zone through a series of porous soil probes. This system uses similar principles as the water injection system, but utilizes lower pressures. However, limited research exists for the air injection system; particularly, how this system impacts soil physical properties.

Figure 1

The goal of this study was to determine changes in surface hardness and soil physical properties in response to air injection on two compacted silt loam athletic fields. The hypothesis was that the air injection system would decrease surface hardness and soil bulk density, thereby increasing total soil porosity.

The Air2G2 machine was used to apply air injection treatments for this study. The unit was manufactured by GT Airinject (Jacksonville, FL). The Air2G2 utilizes a self-contained air compressor to build up pressure to inject air at the desired pressure below the soil surface. The Air2G2 has a three-wheeled configuration design which is easily maneuvered across a desired area (Figure 1). The air injection system contains three probes that simultaneously penetrate into the soil profile. These probes then release compressed bursts of air at a desired depth. For this study, the three probes were 18 cm long on 45 cm spacing. The air pressure range can be set from 0 to 150 psi. There are different pressure settings that are recommended depending on soil type (i.e. sand versus finer textured native soils) to maximize the impact. For this study, the pressure setting was 130 psi.

Research was conducted at the University of Tennessee from July 1 through August 30, 2014. The study was conducted on two compacted (high use municipal) native soil (silt loam) athletic fields. Two application frequencies were used: once every 15 days and once every 30 days, and were compared to a non-treated control. Data collection included soil moisture, surface hardness, total soil porosity, soil bulk density, and digital image analysis for percent green cover. Every 30 days soil cores were extracted for analysis to determine soil bulk densities and total soil porosities. Surface hardness measurements were collected with the Clegg impact soil tester using a 2.25 kg missile. Surface hardness was

collected before and after the application of air injection. Time Domain Reflectometry (Spectrum Technologies) using 7.5 cm tines was used to measure percent volumetric soil water content. The experimental design was a randomized complete block design with three replications. Differences among treatments were determined using statistical software.

Surface hardness values were reduced immediately after each air injection treatment. A 21% reduction in surface hardness was detected immediately after treatment application (Figure 2). Soil moisture content at each location accounted for the differences in surface hardness at each location on all data collection dates (data not shown). A 15% reduction in soil bulk density was detected in the top five centimeters of the soil for both air injection application timings (Figure 3). A 17% increase in total soil porosity was observed in the top 5 cm of the soil; while, the untreated control had no change (data not shown).

This study demonstrates that an air injection system increases total soil porosity and decreases soil bulk density on compacted native soil (silt loam) athletic fields. Surface hardness reductions were found immediately after treatment application. No differences were detected in percent green cover for this study. Due to the minimal invasive nature of the air injection system, play could take place immediately following application. Therefore, the air injection system is a way to reduce surface hardness on compacted athletic fields immediately before an event, with limited surface disruption. Future studies are needed to determine the long-term impacts of air injection aeration on athletic fields. •

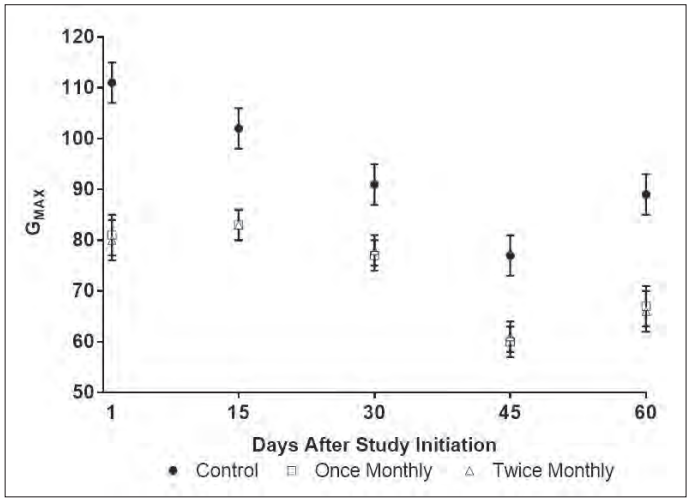


Figure 2

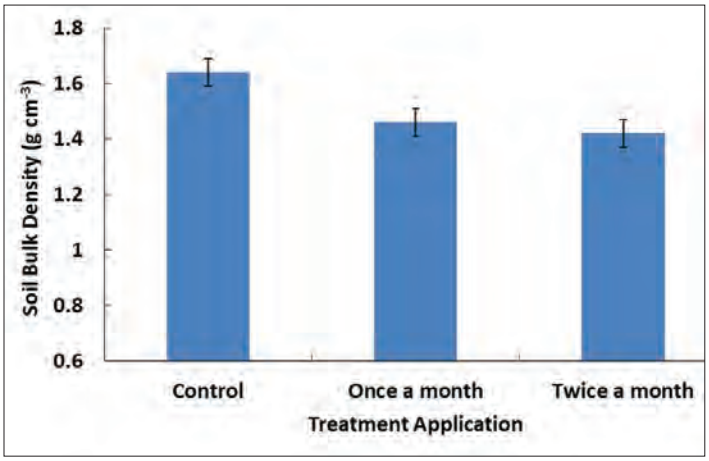


Figure 3

References

Brauen, S. E., W. J. Johnston, and R. L. Goss. 1998. Long-term aerification: A bentgrass fairway study compares hollow-and solid-tine core aerification. USGA Green Section Record 36:13-15.

Madison, J. H. 1971. Principles of turfgrass culture. Van Nostrand Reinhold Co., New York.

Murphy, J. A., and P. E. Rieke. 1994. High pressure water injection and core cultivation of a compacted putting green. Agron. J. 86.4:719-724.

Rogers, J. N., and D. V. Waddington. 1992. Impact absorption characteristics on turf and soil surfaces. Agron. J. 84.2:203-209.

Wiecko, G., R. N. Carrow, and K. J. Karnok. 1993. Turfgrass cultivation methods: Influence on soil physical, root/shoot, and water relationships. Int. Turf. Soc. Res. J. 7:451-457.

SHARE THE PASSION FOR BETTER, SAFER SPORTS TURF.

SPORTS TURF™ CANADA

Sports Turf Canada™ members are the authoritative source for best practice sports turf management. *Join us today.*

The heart of better, safer sports turf field management.




Sports Turf Canada Members are:

- MUNICIPALITIES
- SCHOOLS
- COMMUNITY COLLEGES
- UNIVERSITIES
- RESEARCHERS
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS
- CONTRACTORS
- INDUSTRY SUPPLIERS
- AND MANY, MANY MORE...

Sports Turf Canada provides members with:

- A dedicated organization of experts
- The promotion of quality, safe sports turf across Canada
- A commitment to constantly improving our association to serve our members and our partners
- Environmental stewardship – we value sports turf and its impact on the environment
- A commitment to sports turf through ongoing educational opportunities, resources and the support of research
- Regular communication through ***Sports Turf Manager*** magazine, enews and website

328 Victoria Road South, Guelph, Ontario N1L 0H2 | 519-763-9431 info@sportsturfcanada.com **SportsTurfCanada.com**

Jacobsen Celebrates 95th Anniversary

Jacobsen®, a Textron Inc. (NYSE: TXT) company, announced that 2016 marks the 95th year Jacobsen has been in business.

Founded in 1921 by Oscar Jacobsen, the company has been committed to helping turf managers present world-class conditions every day.

With over 95 years of experience in the turf maintenance industry, Jacobsen has built a legacy of precision craftsmanship, legendary quality of cut and unmatched expertise. Dedicated solely to delivering perfectly groomed turf, Jacobsen equipment is used on some of the finest formal turf areas across the United States and the world, through an extensive distribution network and the international Ransomes brand.

"Since Oscar Jacobsen founded the company 95 years ago, his original vision really hasn't changed much over the years," said David Withers, president & CEO of Jacobsen. "He set out to provide equipment that helped turf managers provide superior conditions, maximize productivity and reduce costs. From his original putting greens mower to today's HR Series of wide-area rotary mowers, we've delivered on that vision for 95 years. And now it's the countdown to our centennial in 2021 when we will celebrate our 100-year anniversary."

JACOBSEN
A Division Of Textron

For further information please contact
Sierra Kennedy, Public Relations & Communications Specialist
(765) 246-7737 x 256 skennedy@dixiechopper.com

MORE & LESS

CUTS 25% MORE GRASS THAN 11-FOOT MOWERS

COSTS 20% LESS $$$ THAN 16-FOOT MOWERS

14-FEET WIDTH-OF-CUT WITH A SMALLER TRANSPORT FOOTPRINT THAN AN 11-FOOT MOWER

Large enough to mow up to 25% more grass than traditional 11-foot mowers and significantly more affordable than larger 16-foot mowers, the **all-new Jacobsen HR700** is in a class by itself – providing unparalleled productivity for sports fields, parks & green spaces, schools, airports and commercial grounds. Productivity comes from the mower's **super strong and lightweight SureStrength™ decks** and an incredibly nimble platform that delivers a zero uncut circle. Couple all that with an AdaptiCut™ system that **automatically adjusts mow speed to grass thickness**, and you've got the perfect combination of power, productivity, and precision all wrapped in one machine. Learn more about the HR700 at Jacobsen.com.

JACOBSEN®

1.888.922.TURF | www.jacobsen.com

City of Surrey Hosts 2016 Women's World Softball Championships

Jamey Serediuk, Athletic Field Operations Coordinator, City of Surrey

Thirty teams from as many countries competed for gold in the City of Surrey, BC this summer. The 2016 Women's World Softball Championships were held July 15 to 24 at Softball City in sunny South Surrey. It was the largest Women's World Championships and the largest single sporting event ever held in Canadian history! One hundred and twenty-four games were played over a ten day period and over 100,000 people came to the facility to cheer on their team. It took an army of 750 volunteers to pull off the event and a dedicated group of City staff made sure the facilities were up to world class standards.

Softball City transformed

Softball City was built in 1991 by a private group that secured a 25 year lease to operate a four diamond complex on City land. Up until the announcement of the World Championships the facility was operated and maintained with little to no input by City staff. With a limited budget and a lack of proper maintenance, the grounds and buildings quickly became run down. In October of 2013 when it was announced that Softball City would be the venue for the 2016 Women's World Championships, the City committed its resources to making considerable improvements to the complex. City staff had 33 months and a $1.5 million budget to transform Softball City into a world class facility.

Renovations to the complex began in the fall of 2013 and included installing new backstops, dugouts and foul line fencing, upgrading the irrigation system, renovating outfield grass, replacing the infield material, sodding the arcs, landscaping passive areas and a complete overhaul to the building. Work had to be completed in phases so the facility could stay open to teams wishing to use the diamonds. This proved to be challenging as there was so much work to do yet so little time. The majority of the structural work ended up being done in the off season while field work was conducted during short windows of opportunity in the Spring and Fall of 2014 and 2015.

Diamond #1 was the showcase diamond for the tournament. It was used for the opening and closing ceremonies as well as all of the medal games. To allow for maximum spectator viewing from the stadium seating, a post tension netting system was installed as the backstop. This type of structure eliminated the need for installing posts that would hinder the view of the game. Instead, larger posts were installed behind and to the sides of the stadium seating. Overhead cables were then strung between the posts and black netting hung from the cables.

The backstop construction work on Diamond #1 began in January of 2016. By the end of March things looked nowhere near completion and there were only 16 weeks until the tournament started. Once the civil work neared completion (pouring concrete, rerouting electrical conduit, upgrading storm drains and installing sleeves for the four large posts) things began to progress quickly. Ninety percent of the backstop and dugouts were complete by May and City staff had begun levelling the infield and renovating the outfield grass. The outfield fence and bleachers had been erected by the first week of July. Banners were hung, fields were manicured, building renovations were complete and the facility was finally ready to receive the world.

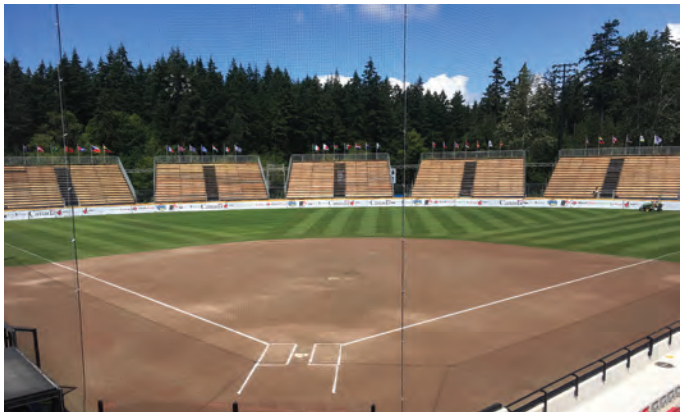
Field Details for the World's

On top of all the upgrades made to Softball City, a number of unique things were done to the fields just for this tournament.

June 2012

July 16, 2016

March 14, 2016



July 13, 2016

Clay Brick

Clay brick was installed at the pitcher's mound and batter's boxes on all four diamonds for the World Championships. The brick prevented large holes from forming in these high wear areas making the field safer and reducing the amount of time required to prepare the fields in between games. With up to five games a day on a diamond this was imperative.

Two hundred and fifty-two bricks were installed on each diamond a week prior to the tournament. A 1 m x 2.1 m area was excavated at each of the three locations. Brick was then installed at 1.25 cm below grade and tamped until the bricks bonded together. Finally, infield material was placed over the brick and levelled.

When not in play the areas were kept covered with a tarp. This was done for two reasons:

1) to keep moisture in preventing the brick from drying out and cracking
2) to keep excessive moisture out when it rained or when infields were watered.

Outfield Grass

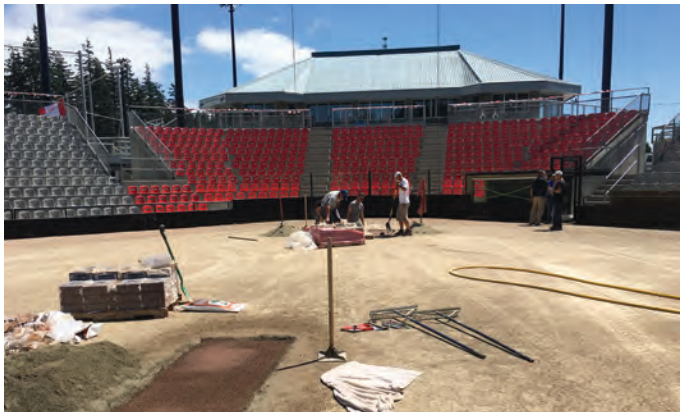
A week before the tournament the grass in the outfield was cut down to 1.9 cm from its usual cutting height of 3.2 cm. Cutting was done daily with a John Deere triplex to maintain a pristine playing surface for the athletes and to achieve an aesthetically looking lawn for spectators. The field was "striped" with various patterns to give it that professional look.

About five days prior to the first games the fertility program was augmented by adding an application of liquid fertilizer and iron (12-0-0, 6% Fe) mainly for improving turf colour. Newly sodded areas on the arc also received an additional application of granular fertilizer high in nitrogen.

Logo

For the Opening Ceremonies City staff wanted to do something special on the field of Diamond #1. Logos are often painted in the grass of sports fields for high profile events but Surrey staff decided to do something a little different. Turface was used to put a logo on the infield. To accomplish this, a very large stencil 16.8 m in length by 12.2 m in width was created.

The day of the Opening Ceremonies the process of putting the logo on the infield began. The stencil was stretched out over the area around the pitching circle. Wind on that day made it challenging to keep the sheets of poly from blowing away but a few bricks helped keep it in place long enough to get the outline of the logo. The stencil was then removed and the process of filling in began. It took five staff about 20 minutes to fill in the logo by hand with the red Turface. When complete the results were dramatic. After the ceremonies the logo easily floated out with a drag mat.



Pitcher's Mound

Batter's Box

Warning Track

Softball City was designed with the outfield fence at 91.5 m for slow pitch. For the Women's World Championships an outfield fence at 67 m was required so a 1.2 m high rental fence with yellow capping was installed. There was no warning track for this distance so one had to be made. This was done by painting the grass in front of the home run fence.

Warning tracks existed along the foul line fencing of each diamond at Softball City so we wanted to match the colour of this material with the paint we would use for the warning track along the home run fence. The colour was matched and the name of the paint colour was smoked salmon (fitting for a tournament in the Pacific Northwest). A Graco Lazer Z paint sprayer was used to paint each of the 110 m long by 3.7 m wide warning tracks; 26.5 L of paint was needed for each diamond and each warning track was painted four times during the tournament. The grass being sprayed was cut every third day instead of daily in an effort to reduce the number of times it required painting.

Infield Maintenance

Two crews were used to maintain the fields during the 10 day tournament. During the day the diamonds were maintained by a crew of volunteers trained by City of Surrey staff. In the evening City staff prepared the diamonds for the following day.

Outfield Grass

A dedicated group of volunteers, some from as far away as France, watered, raked, dragged and lined the infields before each game. They cleaned dugouts, picked garbage and made sure all of the players had a great experience. When the last game of the day was done and everyone had gone home (around 10 pm) City staff brought in their equipment and began the process of bringing the infields back to pristine condition. The infield material was levelled each night with a John Deere tractor pulling a 2.5 m wide metal float. Holes were filled with clay and tamped, infields were groomed with a Toro Sand Pro, infield material was watered and foul lines were repainted. It was a four hour process to have the four diamonds ready for play in the morning. By the end of the tournament, City staff had accumulated 240 hours of overtime between them.

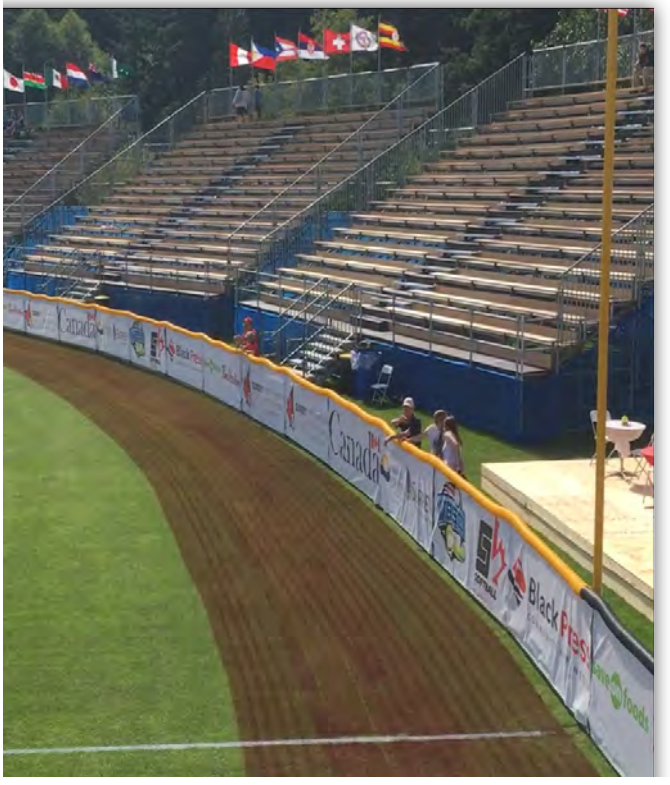
The Final Tweet

At the end of a very successful tournament that saw Team Canada finish with the bronze medal (their best showing at a World Championship), the organizing committee sent out one last tweet that summed it up:

"Five years in the making, the largest world championship in our sports history is officially closed. Thanks to all." •

Logo Creation

Logo Creation



Warning Track

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF HEALTHY TURFGRASS

Rachel Macmillan, 2016 Sheard Scholarship Recipient

Much attention of landscape and design can be thought to be all about the garden and masonry work, but the lush green growth of healthy turfgrass is sometimes overlooked with respect to the importance it plays in landscape design and even recreation. In North America, turf is the largest agricultural crop[1], which is under rated in design, but does provide numerous environmental benefits that some people may not realize. Some of the many benefits that turfgrass can provide to the environment are preventing erosion, promoting safety, replenishing air, supporting bioremediation, sequestering carbon, regulating temperatures, recreation and even therapeutic benefits.

Turfgrass supports an important erosion control function. The blades of turfgrass plants have water retention capabilities. High shoot density and root mass stabilize surface soil that will prevent erosion. Soil also acts like a sponge, absorbing dust and other particulate matter that are airborne. This is important as dust is highly produced in urban areas by cars and trucks, but these particles are washed into the soil; preventing further movement. The turf plant traps and acts as a filter for the air that we breathe.

Healthy turfgrass also promotes safety by acting as a barrier to fire damage and is capable of preventing large fires from spreading out of control. It also deters insects and pests from creating habitats. Unhealthy, poorly maintained turf, may lead to having to use pesticides to retain control which in some provinces may not be possible due to pesticide bans. By keeping healthy maintenance schedules and performing such practices as fertilization, aeration, overseeding and topdressing, one can minimize or even eliminate the need to use toxic methods. These practices will lead to healthy turfgrass and the promotion of healthy turfgrass root systems, which provide us with natural environmental benefits.

As you may know, plants take up carbon dioxide and release oxygen into the atmosphere. An 18 hole golf course has been studied and known to produce enough oxygen for 10,000 people![2] Not only is healthy turfgrass a great recreational surface, but it also generates oxygen for the environment! These findings may be a surprise to some people, as turfgrass is overlooked and often referred to as "just grass".

Pollutants and other heavy metals have ended up in our soil and are extremely unhealthy not only to people, but plants and animals as well. Instead of polluting the environment, these substances, can be broken down by bacteria, fungi, and other microorganisms that live in the fibrous root zones of healthy turf grass. With healthy root systems, turfgrass perpetuates the food chain cycle and keeps people and our wildlife free from pollutants and other harmful materials that can end up in the atmosphere and our soil.

The ability of turfgrass soils to retain carbon is quite remarkable. Studies have shown that one hectare of a golf course turf is capable of sequestering one tonne of carbon into the soil per year for 30 years. [3] Also, "a well-managed lawn can capture

[1] landscapeontario.com/lawn-and-turf-benefits
[2] www.turfresearchcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/ENVIRONMENTAL-BENEFITS-OF-TURFGRASS-Final.pdf
[3] www.turfresearchcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/ENVIRONMENTAL-BENEFITS-OF-TURFGRASS-Final.pdf
[4] www.mtdproducts.com/eequipment/caring_10500_20500_-1_turfgrass
[5] agops.ucr.edu/turf/topics/turfprotects.htm.

more carbon that is produced by the engine of today's lawn mower. Grass clippings act like a fertilizer that can provide up to one-third of the annual feeding requirements for a lawn – naturally!"[4] The public may overlook these studies, as the majority of people like to remove their clippings for that finished look. It is studies like these that can help educate people on how important the turfgrass plant is to our environment and how naturally cutting your lawn and leaving the clippings can really benefit the overall look and health of their turfgrass in the long run.

Turf also has the ability to regulate temperatures. The transpiration process creates a cooling effect that lowers the temperature of the air that surrounds the turf plant. With high-density turf blades all transpiring at once within a single strand of turfgrass, turf is a natural born air-conditioner! This creates a great recreation environment in the Summer for sports groups alike to stay competitive and active, even in hot temperatures.

As mentioned earlier, turf has the ability to promote safety, but it also provides high-quality cushioning against impact injuries in amateur sports. Unlike hard ice surfaces in a hockey arena, turfgrass provides many playing surfaces for sports such as baseball, cricket, soccer, field hockey, football, rugby, ultimate Frisbee and many more. This cushioning surface creates a safer environment for sports, especially at higher competitive levels. Uniform turf surfaces do not only provide a safe surface, but are also important to the play and outcome of competitions. Turf cover and its management can influence ball roll and bounce. This becomes especially important to sport groups alike for competitions. Turf managers can introduce certain species to these surfaces that can withstand traffic from cleats, and give athletes and leisure groups safe surfaces to compete and play on.

Turf also provides a smooth playing surface to not only athletes, but for outdoor leisure activities as well. Keeping people active creates an overall healthier lifestyle and also overall satisfaction from athletes and general users. Working within the Parks Department for the past 15 years has really opened my eyes to how important public green spaces, sports fields, and recreation areas are to the public. Keeping them well maintained and groomed maintains public satisfaction. This also makes me proud to be able to supply

such an important service to them, while enjoying the work at the same time. Turf offers a low-cost, safe surface for outdoor leisure activities and recreational sports. Recreation on turf surfaces can improve physical and mental health, relieve stress and contribute to the overall enjoyment of life in today's society.

Turf provides all these natural benefits, but one that stands out more than any in my mind, is the therapeutic benefit it can provide. Without even knowing it, people can be directly affected by natural landscaped areas. Municipal parklands provide beautiful green spaces, but also enhance the quality of life due to aesthetic appeal, and now even verified health benefits! "Psychologists who study people and plant interactions, quantify their results by testing blood pressure and heart rates. A view of open green space promotes quicker recovery from experimentally induced stress when compared to busy mall scenes."[5] If you think about this, after working in the office all day to go home to your manicured landscaped area or pass nearby parks can relieve stress from an average day at the office. No prescriptions needed!

Overall, the general public may overlook the environmental benefits of turfgrass. Without even knowing it, turf may already have affected your life. Keep these factors in mind when choosing a new design for your property or maybe just an area to live near.

Turfgrass does not only provide a lush carpet for your property, but a great deal more. It is important to educate the public on the proper maintenance of turfgrass in order to promote its environmental benefits to the fullest. Without maintaining turf, we still have turfgrass health benefits, but if more people understand and learn the simple maintenance procedures to healthy turf, we may see these benefits more profoundly then we do at the moment. The numerous benefits turfgrass provides to our environment are quite astounding. Turf provides erosion prevention, promotes safety, replenishes air, supports bioremediation, sequesters carbon, regulates temperatures and recreational and therapeutic benefits! This briefly summarizes some of the benefits that turf produces naturally, but with the help of turfgrass managers, these environmental benefits may flourish due to education and using proper turf maintenance applications. •

Sports Turf Canada Announces 2016 Sheard Scholarship Recipient

Sports Turf Canada is pleased to announce that Rachel Macmillan is the recipient of the 2016 Robert W. Sheard Scholarship. Rachel, who this year completed the University of Guelph's Turf Managers' Short Course, is Foreperson of Sports Fields, Integrated Plant Heal Care Program for North York, part of The City of Toronto's Parks, Forestry and Recreation Department. Her scholarship essay submission "Environmental Benefits of Healthy Turfgrass" is published in this issue.

The Sports Turf Canada scholarship, renamed for Dr. Sheard in 2007, was established in 1993 to encourage, support and provide leadership to those considering a career in the sports turf industry. Funded through association membership fees, it is intended to assist students with the cost of tuition, books and related expenses.

Awarded annually, the application deadline for 2017 is May 30. Visit sportsturfcanada.com for scholarship policies, application requirements and the application form.

Raising the Standard in Line Marking

✓ Easy
✓ Efficient
✓ Economical

With the iGO machine and Impact XP Paint, line marking has never been easier, more efficient or economic. Impact XP Paint is ready to use and with as little as 1.2 litres you can over mark a soccer pitch.

WHY THE iGO IS UNIQUE

THE NOZZLE: A specially engineered nozzle has been developed to match the desired atomization characteristics of the Impact XP paint. The integration of paint formulation with nozzle design and performance is a major advance in sports marking application.

AN ENVIRONMENTAL LANDMARK IN PAINT TECHNOLOGY

The Impact XP line marking paint is the most advanced, ready-to-use line marking paint and raises the standard of sports field line marking. No mixing, measuring or dilution of the paint is required as the paint is applied direct from it's container WITHOUT the addition of any water.

Impact XP is a highly micronized formulation of titanium dioxide, combined with special binders, providing unequaled coverage. A standard sized soccer pitch can be over-marked with as little as 1.2 litres of Impact XP.

The fine atomization of the spray droplets ensures the paint adheres strongly to both sides of the leaf blade. Special pigmentation attributes provide a bright, white reflective surface increasing in visual intensity as the paint dries to give an exceptional line.

In addition, the formulation offers a high level of rainfastness that is durable under a wide range of climatic and ground conditions. Under normal conditions the paint is surface dry within 10 minutes.

THE LINE MARKING COMPANY
LINEMARK INTERNATIONAL

Linemark International
Skovtoften 14
DK – 7100 Vejle
+ 45 72 30 18 30
info@linemarkinternational.com
www.linemarkinternational.com

For more information visit brettyoung.ca or call toll-free at 800-665-5015.
Contact your local BrettYoung Regional Account Manager and let us show you our commitment to your success.

Distributed in Canada by

BrettYoung™
Committed to You

Inaugural Alberta Sports Turf Field Day Blows Away Expectations

Yes, it was a little windy (and wet) in Calgary August 25th for the inaugural Alberta Sports Turf Field Day co-produced by the Western Canada Turfgrass Association and Sports Turf Canada, but it was the delegate, sponsor and exhibitor support that really blew away event organizers.

About 75 sports turf professionals were expected on field at New Brighton Athletic Park but at the end of the day, over double that number participated in the education and networking event featuring University of Tennessee's, Dr. John Sorochan and Prairie Turfgrass Research Centre Lead Research Scientist, Katie Dodson.

Equally impressive was the Olds College Broncos soccer team that provided a fantastic burger and smokie lunch with all the fixins. Note to those in the east, a smokie is short for smoked sausage (not just an oversize hotdog or bratwurst) and they're a western summertime staple!

Conveying his appreciation for the hard work that went into producing this event, WCTA President Jason Pick stated, "Through our partnership with Sports Turf Canada, we are very pleased to have offered this new educational and networking event. Celebrating how working together can drive both innovation and renewal, we connect our associations through a common vision."

Sharing the cooperative spirit, Sports Turf Canada President, Tab Buckner, added, "Growing friendships and encouraging its network, we've introduced suppliers to new customers, each who play integral roles into industry's advancement. We thank our sponsors and exhibitors and municipalities across Alberta for confirming this renewal of education in the Sports Field and Parks and Recreation sectors."

Both the STC and WCTA would like to offer special thanks to event host Norley Calder and the City of Calgary for their cooperation and support along with Jason Pick and Olds College for supplying all the tables, chairs, and tents.

What synergy! Industry sponsors and exhibitors, supporting professional associations and the members we serve, for the benefit of our user groups. All in one place!

Calgary, Alberta

Thank You To Our Field Day Exhibitors:

Alberta Turfgrass Research Foundation
Bannerman Ltd.
BrettYoung Seeds
CPS Evergro
Eagle Lake Professional Landscape Supply
EnviroPerfect Solutions
Harco Fittings
Ion Irrigation Management
Jacobsen
Keso Turf Supplies
Kifco Water Reel Dealer Farmingdale Inc.
Oakcreek Golf & Turf
Plant Health Division
Pumptronics
Rain Bird
SiteOne Landscape Supply
Western Turf Farms
Wood Bay Turf Technologies

Thank You To Our Generous Sponsors:

Gold Sponsors

EAGLE LAKE professional landscape supply

KESO

JACOBSEN A Division Of Textron

OLDS COLLEGE 1913

Calgary

Silver Sponsors

WESTERN Turf Farms Ltd

SiteOne LANDSCAPE SUPPLY Stronger Together

ion ion irrigation management inc.

Bronze Sponsors

TORO Irrigation

NEUDORFF

RAIN BIRD

PHD PLANT HEALTH DIVISION

BrettYoung Committed to You

Evergro

Pumptronics

woodbay fds DETHATCHERS

29TH Annual Ontario Sports Turf Field Day

The first day of Autumn was a beauty as the Ontario Sports Turf Field Day returned to the City of Toronto and Centennial Park on September 22nd. This City-sponsored venue hosted our association in 1988 for what was then a fledgling endeavour, laying the foundation for what has now become a flagship occasion. And it was great to return!

From Blue Jays to safer play, fertilization to communication, more than 215 sports turf industry professionals were on hand to participate in the education and training provided by our speakers.

We congratulated our award and scholarship recipients, extended retirement wishes, and caught up with colleagues over lunch outside. Add to that our always-generous-and-willing-to-participate sponsors and exhibitors and you have a winning networking event.

We have so many to thank; especially all the City of Toronto staff who helped to make the day come together. You were many and your support and assistance is so very much appreciated!

SPORTS FIELD DAY REPORT

The newly formed Sports Turf Association proudly held and sponsored its second annual Field Day at Etobicoke's Centennial Park on Thursday, June 16, 1988. With one hundred and twenty five participants the programme covered such topics as emergency planning for special events, field drainage requirements and highlighted a panel discussion on maintenance of sports turf with fellow members of our association as participants.

Our special thanks go to Ken Mrock of the Chicago Bears organization and to Dr. Kent Kurtz, Executive Director, The Sports Turf Managers Association in the United States for sharing their expertise and experience with our members.

The afternoon provided the group with a first hand look at the practical application of various sports turf related equipment and the demonstrations allowed all present to see the equipment in use.

Finally, the "meet and mingle" portion of our programme provided individual members with the opportunity to discuss their own ideas and exchange new information.

Thank you for all your continued efforts and support.

Yours very truly,

Ron Dubyk

1988

Sports Turf Newsletter — 3

Toronto, Ontario

Thank You To Our Field Day Exhibitors:

Allturf Ltd.
Aqua-Terra Canada Inc.
Bannerman Ltd.
BrettYoung / Plant Science
Core Equipment Incorporated
Covermaster Inc.
DCS & Associates
G.C. Duke Equipment Ltd.
Greenhorizons Sod Farms
Hutcheson Sand & Mixes
Lawn Life Natural Turf Products
Mar-Co Clay Products Inc.
Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation
Nutrite
Plant Products Inc.
Rain Bird International
RTF Sod Association
Simplistic Lines Inc.
Speare Seeds
Sports Turf International Ltd.
Turf Care Products Canada
VandenBussche Irrigation

Thank You To Our Generous Sponsors:

Silver Sponsors

RTF Rhizomatous Tall Fescue

SPEARESEEDS

TORONTO

Bronze Sponsors

BANNERMAN

COVERMASTER AHEAD OF THE GAME

PLANTPRODUCTS

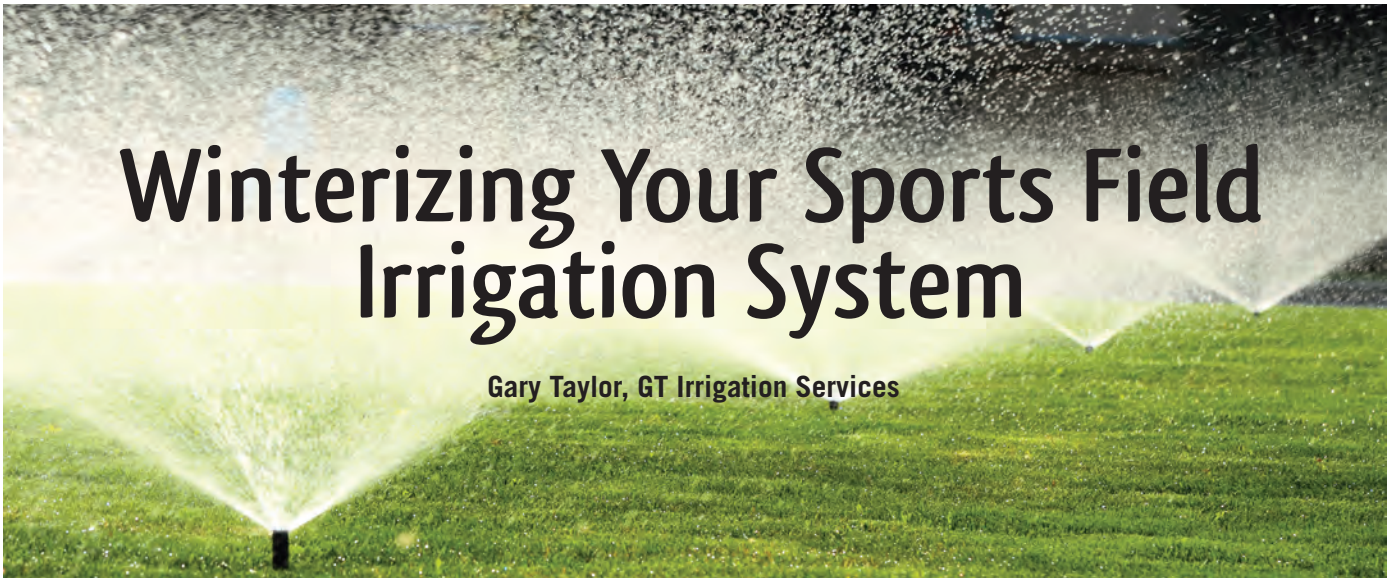
G.C. Duke EQUIPMENT LTD.

SIMPLISTIC LINES

UBU

TURF CARE Helping your business grow

VANDEN BUSSCHE IRRIGATION



Winterizing Your Sports Field Irrigation System

Gary Taylor, GT Irrigation Services

The time of year is upon us when we need to winterize our irrigation systems. In the Spring issue, I discussed starting up your sports field irrigation system. I stated, "How well you winterized the system in the fall will translate in large part to how well the startup goes. If you blew out the piping network thoroughly with compressed air then pipe breaks should be non-existent or minimal unless we have a severe Winter with deep frost. If you blew out the system excessively then there may be sprinkler and valve issues to deal with."

In this issue, I will describe the proper way to winterize a sports field irrigation system to ensure that the Spring startup is pain free subject to Mother Nature. Winterizing an irrigation system involves blowing out the system (piping network, zone valves and sprinklers) with compressed air. Unfortunately there are no courses or certifications required for blowing out a system with compressed air which is a shame because compressed air can cause major damage to the integrity of all components of an irrigation system. Typically we just do it the way we were instructed by our predecessors. The same can be said of the golf course industry where the potential for damage is exponentially greater.

So, why do we need to blow out an irrigation system anyways? Why can't we just turn it off and relieve the pressure in the mainline? The reason is that in our part of the world the ground freezes. If you can remember back to science class, when water freezes it expands. In fact, it can expand up to 10% when frozen. If we leave pipe full of water it will break. PVC pipe shatters in a herringbone pattern, PE pipe splits, ABS pipe shatters in a spiral pattern. Sprinkler head bodies will crack, internals will break apart, electric valve bonnets and bodies will crack and diaphragms will rip and tear.

Since our pipe is installed (or should be installed) a minimum of 12" (30.5 cm) below grade, it will freeze as the frost penetrates the ground. While the depth of frost can vary by soil type, region and year depending on temperatures, snow cover and other factors, we proactively winterize our systems to prevent costly and time consuming damage. Some people believe pipe should be installed below the frost line which is typically at or near where we install large diameter (6" (15.2 cm) and larger) pipe. Even if we did install pipe this deep, the sprinklers, swing joints and electric valves would be still be affected.

When we winterize our irrigation systems, do we actually blow every last drop of water out of the piping infrastructure? In reality we do not. We blow out the majority of the water so that any water that is left in the pipe can dissipate over distance and expand with freezing and not cause any problems. This is why once we have finished blowing the system out, we open any and all section (isolation) valves on the mainline to ensure there are no blockages where any of the remaining water can collect.

The key to water removal is volume not pressure. Volume is measured in CFM (cubic feet per minute). In metric terms it is measured in cubic meters per minute although for the most part the industry still uses the CFM measurement. Since compressors are designed for the construction trades, they produce pressure to increase the efficiency of the tools and implements that are attached to them. Typically they are set to operate at 100 PSI or higher. We require minimal pressure to blow water out of pipes, electric valves and sprinklers. In fact, only 35 PSI or less is required to pop up a sprinkler. Therefore, it is imperative to reduce the pressure at the outlet of the compressor to prevent damaging the irrigation system components.

While compressors come with a regulating valve, it generally will not regulate the pressure low enough for our requirements. Adding an air pressure regulator downstream from the compressor discharge will accomplish this feat. These specialized pressure regulators can regulate air pressure from 5 to 125 PSI.

You want to have a maximum of 50 PSI of air in the pipe. If sprinklers won't pop up at that pressure due to elevation or other factors, then you may need to increase it slightly but be very cautious. Pressure regulators on electric valves are designed to regulate water pressure not air pressure so they cannot be relied upon to regulate the pressure to the sprinklers.

So how big of a compressor do you need? This is calculated

by the size and layout of your system(s). In the Spring issue I recommended the installation of a quick coupling valve (QCV) at the end of each mainline. A 1" (25 mm) quick coupling valve with a key installed can pass up to 150 CFM of air. A sprinkler with a 12 GPM nozzle will typically pass +/- 30 CFM. Therefore, five sprinklers operating on a zone passes approximately the same amount of air as the quick coupling valve. A 185 CFM compressor will allow you to blow the water out of the mainline through a quick coupling valve and then progress through the individual stations with the QCV key removed. A 260 CFM compressor will allow you to blow out one station at a time with the QCV installed.

Hopefully you have a point of connection close to your water source in your mainline to connect the compressor to ensure that water is blown out from the source out to the sprinklers. If the compressor needs to be connected at another place other than the water source, a drain valve will need to be installed at the water source to allow the water to be blown back and out. If you have a flow sensor, remove the internal paddle wheel assembly and install a "dummy plug" which can be obtained from an irrigation distributor. Blowing compressed air past the paddle wheel can cause the bearings to be damaged and result in product failure that will likely not be identified until the following Spring.

The phrase "air compresses, water doesn't" that I used in the Spring issue applies even more to winterization. It is imperative to always have air venting from the piping network. Even if your pressure regulator at the compressor is set at 40 PSI, it is possible for the pressure at the end of the mainline and in the lateral lines to be substantially higher because air will compress in the pipe without any form of venting. It is also possible for the air and any water in the pipe to mix and create a dangerous situation. Remember, we never want more than 50 PSI in the piping network.

Always blow out the mainline(s) first. Using the quick coupling valve to blow out the mainline pipe prior to operating any zones will save pushing excessive air across the diaphragm on the electric valve. Pushing compressed air through the sprinklers requires that air to pass by the gear drive mechanism in the sprinkler which can spin much faster than designed and will heat up once the water has been evacuated. Imagine driving your car at 10,000 RPM – it can be done but likely not without consequences.

How do you know when a zone is blown out? Is it required to have just air coming out of the sprinkler? The answer is no. When a sprinkler is misting it means that air is being pushed through the sprinkler. If a zone with 4 – 5 sprinklers has water still coming out of one head while the others are blowing air or misting, it is important to achieve a mist from the one sprinkler because it may be indicative of a low spot in the pipe.

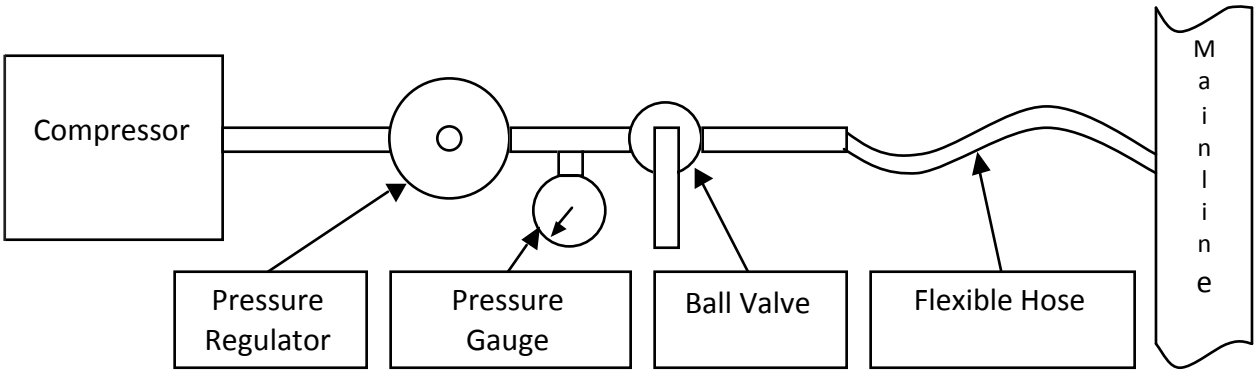
Is it a good idea to go back and operate zones a second and third time to ensure that all of the water has been blown out? Again the answer is no. Operating sprinklers with an air/water mixture can cause dangerous product failure. Namely, blowing sprinklers out of the ground.

The actual process of blowing the system out is quite straight forward. Once irrigation has been completed for the season and prior to blowing out the system, shut off the main irrigation valve and release the pressure in the mainline by installing quick coupler keys and operating the stations multiple times. When you connect your compressor to the systems it is a good idea to include a short length of galvanized pipe between the pressure regulator and the access point to the pipe to help dissipate the heat created by the air compressor.

With a quick coupler key(s) installed in the mainline or a farthest zone open (if you don't have quick coupling valves) start up the compressor and ensure the pressure regulating valve is set to 40 PSI. Open the ball valve to the system slowly and then go out into the field to monitor the water leaving the mainline. Once all water has been removed from the mainline or farthest zone, then you are ready to progress through your stations. Always ensure that something is open in the system to prevent the buildup of compressed air. Once you have completed progressing through the stations once then close the ball valve at the compressor and turn the compressor off.

Large systems with multiple fields and mainline looping generally utilize a larger compressor. It is recommended to install pressure gauge(s) on quick coupler keys in areas where zones will be activated to maintain the proper number of zones operating and ensure the desired pressure is not exceeded.

It is not a bad idea to operate the zones a few times after the system has been blown out to dissipate any water that may remain in the orifices of the actuating portion of the electric zone valve (including the solenoid and plunger). Just avoid operating the electric zone valve in freezing temperatures or the plunger seal may become damaged if it is actuated while it is frozen in place.



The electrical winterization is a quick and easy process. Disconnect the station common wire(s) in the controller. This is done to minimize any potential damage caused by lightning over the Winter. While station wires connect to individual valves, the common wire connects a series of valves. When the ground freezes, conductivity in the soil is nullified and grounding is virtually non-existent.

It is necessary to complete winterization at the water source as well. On potable water systems, the backflow preventer and water meter may need to be drained and/or removed especially if their location is not heated. Normally this is completed by another department or the utility company so it is a separate matter from the irrigation system. If a pump(s) is used at the source then this must be winterized separately as well, especially if it is a centrifugal pump which must be drained to prevent cracking of the volute in freezing temperatures.

Winterizing a sports field irrigation system can be a worry free process with the proper compressor and completed systematically. The phrase, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure", definitely applies to the importance of winterizing an irrigation system for startup the next Spring.

Gary Taylor is owner of GT Irrigation Services, an independent irrigation consulting and water management firm specializing in golf and sports field irrigation design as well as central irrigation control for municipalities.

G.C. Duke Announcement

G.C. Duke Equipment Ltd. is pleased to announce that we are the new distributors of Buffalo Turbine blowers for the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec. Over the past 20 years Buffalo Turbine has become the industry leader in innovation and design of tow behind self contained debris blowers utilizing the same turbine style design since they were established in 1945. G.C. Duke Equipment is proud to partner with Buffalo Turbine to add to our already extensive range of turf maintenance products.

BUFFALO TURBINE

For more information, contact Paul Turner,
Cell 416-566-0211, Office 1-800-883-0761,
or email pturner@gcduke.com

PROXSTABLISHMENT on any project:

GREENHORIZONS TURF MANAGEMENT

from specialized sports fields to any sod installation

Experience a touchdown with Greenhorizons' Professional Turf team. They have the know-how and extensive experience to properly build sports fields, or carry out any sod installation RIGHT the first time. They also understand that budget restraints exist at all levels. Based on the project and its proposed uses, Greenhorizons can provide a range of budgetary options for the best fit.

ProXstablishment™ Service

As any experienced turf manager can tell you, site preparation and laying the sod is only half of the job. How the turf is managed immediately after installation can drastically affect time-to-use of a site. In recent years, the Greenhorizons team have taken what they know about turf and developed the *ProXstablishment* service to take the hassle and worry out of the site preparation, sod installation, and also the required maintenance until establishment.

From specialized sports fields to any sod installation, Greenhorizons has the right sod variety for the job. Couple that with extensive experience through successful installs and their ProXtablishment turf management program to guarantee establishment, and you're in line for a TOUCHDOWN!!

Call today. It's a win-win with Greenhorizons.

GREENHORIZONS SOD FARMS

Serving Ontario & Surrounding Areas | 1-800-367-6995 | GreenhorizonsSod.com/sportsfield

KWIKGOAL 2B9006

PRO PREMIER® PORTABLE COMPETITION GOAL

PRO PREMIER® PORTABLE COMPETITION GOAL

KWIKGOAL 2B9006SW

New Item!

The new 2B9006 & 2B9006SW Pro Premier® Portable Competition Goals are designed for teams that want the professional soccer goal look without the permanent installation.

For more information and to order, visit:

KWIKGOAL.ca

CANADA

OFFICIAL SUPPLIER