

Kenya, Netherlands, Israel, Scotland and Ireland. To host the event, the Canadian Cricket Association is required to install ten grass cricket pitches in the Toronto area and ensure that these pitches are of a sufficiently high standard consistent with the calibre of this tournament. These pitches, on both private and public facilities, have been constructed in Toronto, Ajax and King City. Traditionally in Canada, cricket has been played on synthetic mats laid down specifically for a particular match and thus there was little or no expertise in Ontario for the construction and maintenance of grass cricket wickets.

The task of installing these pitches has been given to Chris Chappell of the Toronto Cricket, Skating and Curling Club and Mike Corley of Scarborough, England, a former cricket groundsman and now a private consultant. Both have previous experience with the Sahara Cup competition. Advice on a suitable Ontario soil for the project was obtained from Professor Les Evans of the University of Guelph. Norm McCollum, Superintendent of the Guelph Turf Grass Institute, has been advising on a turf type perennial rye grass species suitable for the climate of southern Ontario.

A new cricket pitch is constructed from the bottom up. Soil is excavated to a depth of 16 inches, 18 inches if the underlying soil is a heavy clay. A minimum area of about 110 square yards is usually excavated. Four inches of gravel (stone chippings) are laid in the excavation to aid in drainage. A base layer of eight inches of soil containing at least 35% clay are laid in two inch increments. Each two inch increment is compacted before the next layer is added. The top four inches of soil added should contain between 25-35% clay – the ideal soil for a cricket wicket. After ensuring that the pitch is level, a perennial rye grass mixture is raked in at about 1-1/2 oz per square yard and the pitch rolled with a light roller.

After the World Cricket Competition in 2001, more grass cricket wickets will inevitably be springing up as interest in the game of cricket increases due to television exposure of the games and the continued coverage of the annual Sahara Cup. The need for greenskeepers with experience in the maintenance of cricket wickets under Canadian conditions will only increase and the challenge to produce the 'perfect wicket' intensify! ♦

— Dr. Les Evans, Department of Land Resource Science, University of Guelph

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At first people refuse to believe that a strange new thing can be done, then they begin to hope it can be done, then it is done and the world wonders why it was not done centuries ago.

— Francis Hodgson Burnett



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**SEEDS**

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## Choosing Seeds

Could you please supply me with a list of top quality seeds for use on overseeding sports turf. I am looking for Kentucky bluegrass, creeping fescues and perennial ryegrass seeds to be used in a mixture. We are in eastern Ontario and perennial ryegrass is not winter hardy in this area.

We are currently using a mixture of 60% Kentucky bluegrass (3 types) and 40% creeping red fescue (2 types). I would like to add some perennial ryegrass to the mix to replace some of the creeping red fescue. We use this mix from mid-August to the end of September.

How much perennial ryegrass can you add to the mix without affecting the germination and growth of the Kentucky bluegrass?

In the spring I am looking at using a mix with a high percentage of perennial ryegrass. Is it worthwhile to add some Kentucky bluegrass or will it be smothered out by the perennial ryegrass? What are your recommendations for a spring mix to be used as an annual seeding.

We are members of the Sports Turf Association and are very pleased with the resources you supply. Any additional support you could provide would be much appreciated.

— Terry Egan, Parks and Operations Supervisor, City of Nepean, 613-829-8880

## Response from Pam Charbonneau

As far as different cultivars of perennial ryegrass, fescue and Kentucky bluegrass, I can provide you with a list of

what is sold in Ontario. A good internet resource is the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program at [www.ntep.org](http://www.ntep.org). It has trial results from all the different grass species at various locations, with some in Canada.

As far as how much perennial ryegrass in the mixture, if you go greater than 20%, you virtually get all perennial ryegrass because it will establish and shade out or out compete with the Kentucky bluegrass and fine fescue seedlings.

As far as adding some Kentucky bluegrass to perennial rye for overseeding, I would not recommend to do that. It is best to go with 100% perennial ryegrass. You can blend several cultivars of perennial ryegrass however.

Perennial ryegrass is the best spring mix for an annual seeding.

I hope this information is helpful. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

— Pam Charbonneau, OMAFRA Turfgrass Specialist, 519-824-4120 (x 2597), e-mail [pcharbon@omafra.gov.on.ca](mailto:pcharbon@omafra.gov.on.ca)

## Grub Infestation

Much like other southern Ontario communities, the Town of East Gwillimbury is experiencing a grub infestation. I am looking for information on the following:

1. The best control methods.
2. The best re-construction methods for green spaces destroyed by these insects.
3. Any corporate policies on how other communities react to citizen concern of the perceived

migration from municipal to home-owner property.

Any help you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

— Terry Piche, Facilities Manager, Town of East Gwillimbury, 905-478-7941

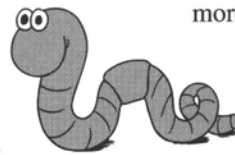
## Response from Chris Mark

Terry, we have a fair bit of experience with grubs here in Oakville. This area has been impacted for probably 10-12 years by chafers. We will, in fact, be treating some areas this year. Answers to your questions are as follows:

### Best Control Methods

A new product, MERIT, is on the market. It is produced by the Bayer company. Consult your local supplier for information. While the product is more expensive than traditional insecticides such as Diazinon, from what I hear it produces excellent results. We have not yet used MERIT, but I have heard great things from others. It affects very young grubs. Larger larvae are not controlled but if you can control the young larvae, with one application you should have good control. Apply in the later part of June and water it in.

For an organic solution you may want to use nematodes. They take longer and are a little more tricky to apply. You must apply them in the range of a million or more per application. We may try them this year as an organic treatment, but because we have no experience with nematodes, we would like to treat first with MERIT. I understand the



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City of Oshawa has had good success in controlling grubs on cul-de-sac islands with nematodes. Again, consult your local supplier for information.

#### Best Re-Construction Methods

Reconstruction usually means re-sodding. These guys are such vociferous root feeders that a full renovation is normally required. I suggest spraying in June, then renovating areas in late summer unless you have an irrigated site affected. You can overseed as a cheaper option, then definitely topdress. Overseed in mid-late August when you'll get a good seed catch. If it is a large area that needs overseeding and you don't have the staff or equipment, consider hydroseeding.

#### Homeowner Concerns

We have not been spraying and re-sodding town boulevards. We advise the homeowner that it is their responsibility. In the majority of cases, we take the position that the town boulevard in the front or at the side of your home is an extension of your front lawn. You cut it, fertilize

it, water it, water the street tree, etc. The only turf repairs we do are from snow plow damage. We do cut reverse frontage lots along major arteries where there is traditionally a sound or barrier fence, but generally have not controlled grubs.

Grubs like well manicured turf and many boulevards we look after along arterial roads and secondary roads are generally pretty sparse in comparison to frontage boulevards which the homeowner usually waters and fertilizes.

This policy or practice rubs many people the wrong way. We have had some challenges. Several years ago, ads were placed in the local paper(s) advising people of grubs, their impact, solutions and the homeowner's responsibility to deal with the problem. About all we do is give people advice. Of course grubs *always* migrate from the boulevard to the homeowner's property and never the reverse. This is hard to prove. They could also have migrated from an adjacent yard. Many of our boulevards are so compacted and have such poor soil that I'm not sure even grubs could tunnel their way through.

The bottom line is that we have miles of boulevard and if we had to repair/re-sod every one which had grub damage, the costs would be astronomical.

— Chris Mark, Past STA President, Assistant Director, Parks & Recreation, Town of Oakville, 905-845-6601

#### Further Resources

Lee Huether, our Executive Manager, suggests the following resources for additional information

- OMAFRA's FACTSHEET entitled "Grubs in Lawns." It can be accessed at: [www.gov.on.ca/OMAFRA/english/crops/facts/97-023.htm](http://www.gov.on.ca/OMAFRA/english/crops/facts/97-023.htm)

- OMAFRA's Turf Hotline can be reached by telephone, 1-888-290-4441. This is a three minute recorded message which is updated weekly with timely information on turfgrass pests

- THE GTI ADVISOR (look in the Turf Management column). The regular publication season has started. New this year is free internet access on a special dedicated website: [www.gti.uoguelph.ca/advisor](http://www.gti.uoguelph.ca/advisor). ♦

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## Coming Events

**Mark your Calendar!**

### July 11, 12 or 13

*3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Solving Turf Problems*  
University of Guelph, Guelph, ON  
Information: Call Marilyn Dykstra at  
519-767-6258 or Pam Charbonneau at  
519-824-4120 ext. 2597

### July 18-21

*Turfgrass Producers International  
Summer Convention & Field Days*  
Spokane, WA  
Information: 847-705-9898

### July 20

Western Canada Turfgrass Association  
*Annual Field Day & 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Research  
Golf Tournament*, Surrey, BC  
Information: 604-467-2564

### August 15

*Cornell University Field Day*  
Ithaca, NY, Information: 607-255-1792

### August 16

Sports Turf Association  
*13<sup>th</sup> Annual Field Day*  
Guelph, ON  
Information: 519-763-9431

### August 22

Guelph Turfgrass Institute  
*Research Field Day & Summer Turf  
Workshops*, Guelph, ON  
Information: 519-767-5009

### September 18

Canadian Golf Superintendents  
Association *34<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Field Day*  
Winnipeg, MB  
Information: 1-800-387-1056

### September 26-27

Landscape Ontario *Garden Expo*  
Toronto, ON, Information: 905-875-1805

### September 27-30

Communities in Bloom  
*National Symposium on Parks &  
Grounds*, Edmonton, AB  
Information: 514-694-8871

### November 12-15

National Institute on Park and Grounds  
Management *30<sup>th</sup> Annual Educational  
Conference*, Orlando, FL  
Information: 920-733-1201

## City of Cambridge Strikes Key Deal

### HOW ARE YOU COMBATTING SOCCER FIELD SHORTAGES?

**R**elief may be in sight for Cambridge youths wanting to play soccer.

A deal between the City of Cambridge and three ethnic clubs with soccer fields will allow local youths to play on professional-size fields in what is becoming a burgeoning sport in the city.

From May to August, the soccer fields at the Portuguese Oriental Sports club on Shellard Road in North Dumfries Township, the Portuguese Club of Cambridge on Townline Road, and Aurora Lodge 26, Sons of Italy Mutual Society, also on Townline Road, will be available two nights a week.

The five-year lease between the city and the clubs, which was approved by a city committee in early April, will allow teams to use the fields Monday and Wednesday from 6 to 9 p.m. The clubs will not charge rental fees, but the city will help with maintenance and added insurance costs.

For Susan Silva, administrator of Cambridge Youth Soccer, the partnership means more youngsters will be playing soccer on better fields.

Currently, students registered with Cambridge Youth Soccer play on two city-owned fields at the Kinsmen Com-

plex and various smaller fields at Riverside Park and area schools.

"We are really, really grateful," she said. "It allows us to grow."

Silva said the number of youths registered for this summer has risen by 500 from last year, bringing the total to 3,500. About 100 youths are on waiting lists.

Silva said more fields may lead the soccer organization to consider taking on more youths.

John Hannah, director of parks and outside services for the city, said soccer is growing immensely, and the more fields the better.

However, the measure is a "short-term fix." A long-term solution would be to build more soccer fields, he said.

Rick Martins, president of the Portuguese Oriental Sports Club, approached the city and Cambridge Youth Soccer with the idea.

"It's all in the name of soccer, to help it grow," he said.

Martins said he hopes the move will lead to more partnerships between the club and the city. ♦

— Liz Montelro, *KW Record*, April 5, 2000



### November 14-16

New York State Turfgrass Association  
*Turf and Grounds Exposition*  
Syracuse, NY  
Information: 518-783-1229

### November 14-16

*4<sup>th</sup> Decennial National Irrigation  
Symposium*, Phoenix, AZ  
Information: 616-428-6327

### November 15-16

*Prairie East Horticultural Trade Show  
and Conference*, Winnipeg, MB  
Information: 204-947-9766 x 205

### January 3-5, 2001

*Ontario Turfgrass Symposium*  
Toronto, ON, Information:  
519-767-5000

### January 9-11, 2001

Landscape Ontario *Congress 2001*  
Toronto, ON  
Information: 905-875-1805

### January 17-21, 2001

Sports Turf Managers Association  
*12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Exhibition*  
Tampa, FL, Information: 712-366-2669

### February 5-March 3, 2001

University of Guelph  
*Turf Managers' Short Course*  
Information: 519-767-5000

### February 24-27, 2001

Canadian Golf Superintendents  
Association/Western Canada Turfgrass  
Association *52nd Canadian International  
Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show*  
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