

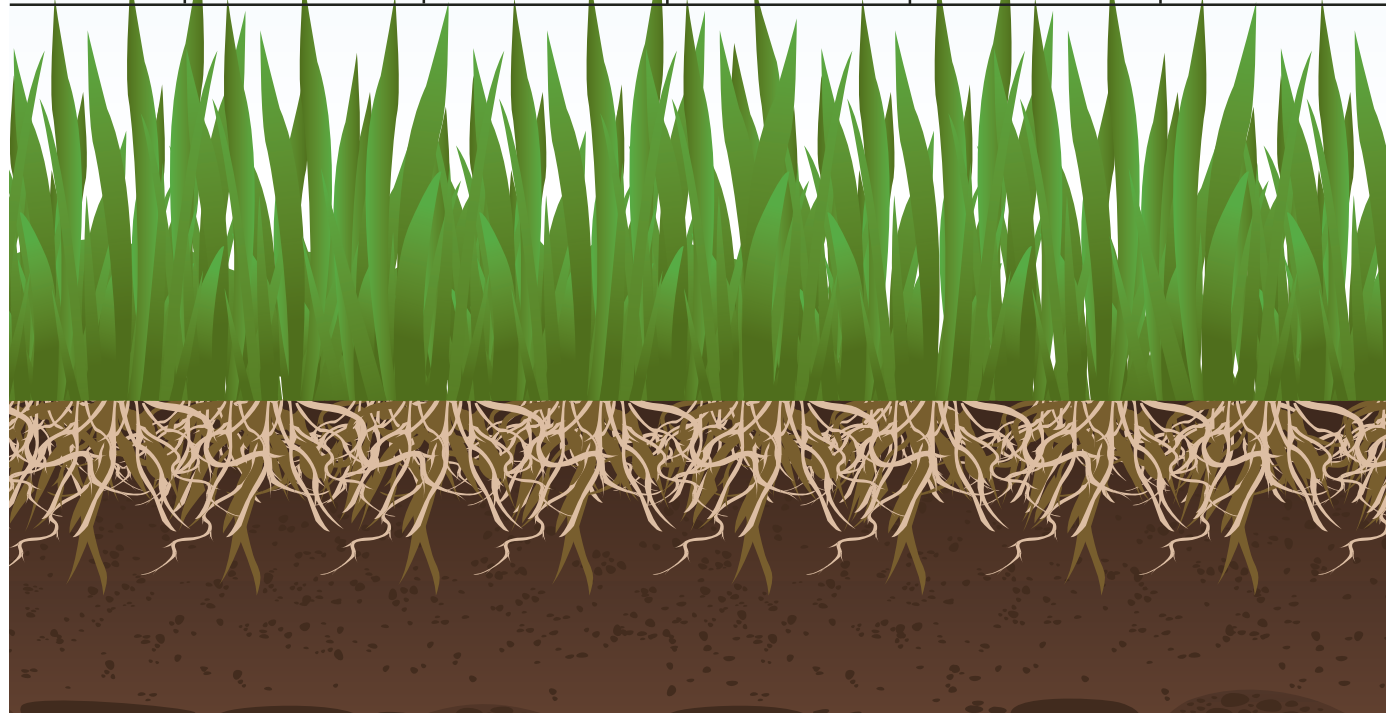
Grass Seeds

AVAILABLE FROM MAJOR SEED COMPANIES IN ONTARIO

The Sports Turf Association strongly recommends to athletic field managers that they use only improved cultivars that have been tested and found superior under local conditions.

SPECIES	SUPPLIER									
	Bishop		Ontario		Pickseed		Quality		Speare	
Kentucky Blue	A34	NuBlue	Award		Alpine	Explorer	Abbey	Denim	A34	NuBlue
	Able I	NuDestiny	Beyond		America	Langara	Alene	Midnight	Able I	NuDestiny
	Boutique	NuGlade	Chicago II		Blue Velvet	Mercury	Avalanche	Midnight II	Boutique	NuGlade
	Brooklawn	Odyssey	Liberator		Cannon	Moon Shadow	Awesome	Midnight Star	Brooklawn	Odyssey
	Chicago II	Rambo	NuBlue		Crest	Quantum Leap	Barrister	Moonbeam	Chicago II	Rambo
	Everest	Rugby II	NuDestiny		Excursion	Touchdown	Blacksburg II	Moonlight	Everest	Rugby II
	Everglade	Rythmn	NuGlade				Blue	North Star	Everglade	Rythmn
	Freedom	Shamrock					Sapphire	Perfection	Freedom	Shamrock
	Liberator	SR2284					Bluemax	Princeton 105	Liberator	SR2284
	Midnight	Total Eclipse					Bluestone	Prosperity	Midnight	Total Eclipse
	Minnfine	Tsunami					Brilliant	Raven	Minnfine	Tsunami
							Cadet	Rugby II		
							Courtyard	Voyager II		
	Texas/ Kentucky Blue Hybrid					Bandera		Longhorn	Thermal Blue	
Poa trivialis	Cypress	Pro Am	Laser	Sabre	Darkhorse	Racehorse	Sabre II	Winterplay	Cypress	Pro Am
Poa supina					Supernova		Supranova			
Poa compressa	Canada Blue		Canada Blue	Reubens	Reptans		Canada Blue	Reubens	Canada Blue	
Ryegrass	Accent	Passport	ASAP		Blazer 4	Futura 3000	All*Star 3	Inspire	Accent	Passport
	Barclay	Pizzazz	Caddieshack		Cutter	Quebec	Grand Slam	Primary	Barclay	Pizzazz
	Goalkeeper	Player	Evolution		Edge	Transist 2200/ intermediate	HomeRun	Stellar	Goalkeeper	Player
			Extreme		Fiesta3	ryegrass				
			Top Gun		Fiesta4					

>> cont. next pg.



SPECIES	SUPPLIER									
	Bishop		Ontario		Pickseed		Quality		Speare	
Fescue: Blue					Azay Blue Fescue		MX 86			
Fescue: Creeping Red	Aberdeen Boreal Salsa		Aruba Audubon Fenway		Boreal Jasper Sea Link		Boreal Florentine Florentine GT	Navigator Rose Shademaster II	Aberdeen Boreal Salsa	
Fescue: Chewings	Intrigue		J-5 Jamestown II Southport		Victory II Windward		Cascade Longfellow II Shadow II		Tiffany Wrigley	
Fescue: Hard	Brigade Heron		Ecostar Rescue 911		Bonita Spartan		Aurora Gold Chariot Discovery		Heron Ridu Serra	
Fescue: Sheeps	Azure MX86		Azure MX86AE		Azay Sheeps		Bighorn Little Bighorn		Azure MX86	
Fescue: Tall	Arid III Coronado Gold Millenium	Regiment Tomcat	Arid III Inferno Jaguar II		Crossfire II Mustang 3 Team Jr.		Avenger Coyote II Dominion	Tahoe Raptor	Arid III Coronado Gold Millennium	Regiment Tomcat
Bentgrass: Creeping	18th Green A-4 Bengal G-5 L-93 OEB G6 Pen G2 Pen T1 Penn A2	Penncross Penneagle Penneagle II Pennlinks Pennlinks II Pennway Providence SR119 SR1020	Dominant Plus L-93 Penn A-4 Penn G-6 Penn Trio Penncross Coated Penncross	Penneagle Pennlinks Pennway Providence T-1	Brighton Cato MacKenzie Mariner Penn A-4	Penn G-1 Penncross Pennlinks II Sandhill	Penn A-1 Penn A-2 Penn A-4 Penn G-2 Penncross Penneagle	Penneagle II Pennlinks Pennlinks II Seaside II Shark	18th Green A-4 Bengal G-5 L-93 OEB G6 Pen G2 Pen T1 Penn A2	Penncross Penneagle Penneagle II Pennlinks Pennlinks II Pennway Providence SR119 SR1020
Bentgrass: Colonial	Highland		Highland		Exeter	Highland	Glory	Highland	Highland	
Bentgrass: Velvet	Legendary				Greenwich	Vesper	Greenwich		Legendary	
Weeping alkali	Fults		Fults		Fults	Salty	Fults	Salty	Fults	

TURF SEEDING RATES

The following are seeding rates per 100m² for specific species of grass seeds: creeping bentgrass, 0.5-1.0 kg; Kentucky bluegrass, 1.0-2.0 kg; perennial ryegrass, 2.0-4.0 kg; fine fescue, 1.0-3.0 kg; tall fescue, 2.0-3.0 kg; and velvet bentgrass 0.5-0.8 kg.

Source: *Turfgrass Management Recommendations*, Publication 384, OMAFRA, 2005





Celebrating 20 Years

The Sports Turf Association was conceived in 1987, when, at a “brain storming” session held at the University of Guelph, a broad segment of the turf industry endorsed its need. Of particular concern at that meeting was the need to minimize and avoid injury to participants using athletic facilities where they relate to sports turf. Two decades later we continue to promote safe, natural sports turf through education and professional development.

Above: Sports Turf Association President Gord Dol; Rob Witherspoon, Director of the Guelph Turfgrass Institute; and Chris Mark, Chair of the OTS Executive Committee at the 2007 Ontario Turfgrass Symposium. Both the STA and GTI celebrate 20 years in 2007.



What's Inside TWO DECADES STRONG!

Browse through the following six pages for a look at STA yesterday and today. Along with an assortment of photos and tidbits, we also publish a profile of STA founding member Michael Bladon and announce the re-naming of the STA Scholarship. Enjoy the journey!

INCLUDED
WITH THIS ISSUE
"20 YEARS OF SERVICE"
CHRONICLING
STA'S HISTORY



Ontario's Premier Turf Educational Event

The 16th annual Ontario Turfgrass Symposium was held February 19 and 20th at Rozanski Hall at the University of Guelph. Turf managers from across the province gathered to participate in educational sessions reflecting the many critical maintenance and environmental issues influencing the care of turf. Speakers from both industry and research offered insight relating to turf care, government legislation and the environment. As with every Ontario Turfgrass Symposium, attendees had a chance to update skills and network with colleagues in the turf industry. Participants at OTS also had the chance to mark and celebrate the 20th anniversaries of both the Sports Turf Association and The Guelph Turfgrass Institute. Planning has already started for the 2008 Ontario Turfgrass symposium. We look forward to seeing you there!

STA Board: Then & Now...

Above: Board of Directors 1987. Michael Bladon, President; Annette Anderson, Conference Chairperson; John Watson, Director; and Ron DUBYK, Secretary. Absent: Bruce Calhoun, Vice President and Robert Allen, Treasurer.

**Sports Turf Newsletter, Volume 1, Issue 1, October 1987*

Top: Board of Directors 2007. Paul Cooper; Bob Sheard, Secretary; Rick Lane, Treasurer; Grant Mckeich; Bill Clausen; Murray Cameron; Jane Arnett-Rivers; Dave Chapman; Cam Beneteau; Bob Kennedy; Lee Huether, Executive Manager; Gord Dol, President; and Andrew Gaydon, Past President. Absent: Rob Field, Paul Gillen and Paul Turner.



2006 Field Day

STA Fast Facts

- 02/87 Inaugural meeting of the STA
- 06/87 1st annual Field Day, University of Guelph
- 09/87 Volume 1, Issue 1, *Sports Turf Newsletter*
- 03/88 1st annual conference, Toronto, ON
- 01/92 1st annual Ontario Turfgrass Symposium, University of Guelph
- 10/93 Scholarship program launched
- 01/94 STA office established at the new Guelph Turfgrass Institute

By January of 1989 we had enrolled 76 members. Since then membership has grown to 262 at the beginning of our 20th year.

GTI Celebrates 20 Years!

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Guelph Turfgrass Institute (GTI). The institute was established by the University of Guelph in 1987 to "promote an interdisciplinary approach to research, education and extension programs in turfgrass science at the University of Guelph, and to facilitate greater interaction between the university, industry and provincial government." A subsequent industry fundraising drive resulted in the 1993 opening of the G.M. Frost Research & Information Centre building, an impressive structure located on research lands provided by the Province of Ontario. The Guelph Turfgrass Institute continues to be actively engaged in turf and related environmental research and teaching as well as providing a meeting place for the Ontario turfgrass industry.



STA Donates to GTI (1992)

As part of the mandate of the Sports Turf Association to support turf research, Peter Kleschnitzki (left), President of the Sports Turf Association, presented Chris Hall, Director of the Guelph Turfgrass Institute, with a cheque for \$1,000. The funds will be used to complete the construction of the institute building. Construction is well underway and completion is expected in late August. The formal opening will occur sometime in October. A machinery storage and service building has already been erected by OMAF. Plans are now being formulated for the development of the research plots. The first seeding of turf plots may occur as early as the spring of 1993.

**Sports Turf Newsletter* Volume 5, Issue 2, July 1992



Artificial Intelligence Artificial Intelligence Artificial Intelligence

A new range of professional artificial turf care machines have been developed by Redexim Charterhouse. Known worldwide for their reliable and effective range of natural turf care equipment such as the Verti-Drain®, Redexim Charterhouse has produced a complete range of equipment to meet the challenging needs of the artificial turf market.



Verti-Brush

The Verti-Brush quickly and effectively levels and distributes applied or existing infill with powerful hydraulic brushes.



Verti-Top

The Verti-Top employs a highly effective synthetic rotary brush to remove debris and top layer infill from the turf, then sifts the debris out in a unique vibratory shaker which redistributes the clean infill back on the field.



Verti-Broom

For brushing and striping of artificial turf, nothing beats the proven Verti-Broom. The highly effective triangular arrangement of the brushes will straighten and groom each grass blade for an attractive and realistic finish.



Verti-Groom

To brush, loosen and decompact the hardest infill, the Verti-Groom is equipped with a variety of interchangeable tools.

Verti-Air

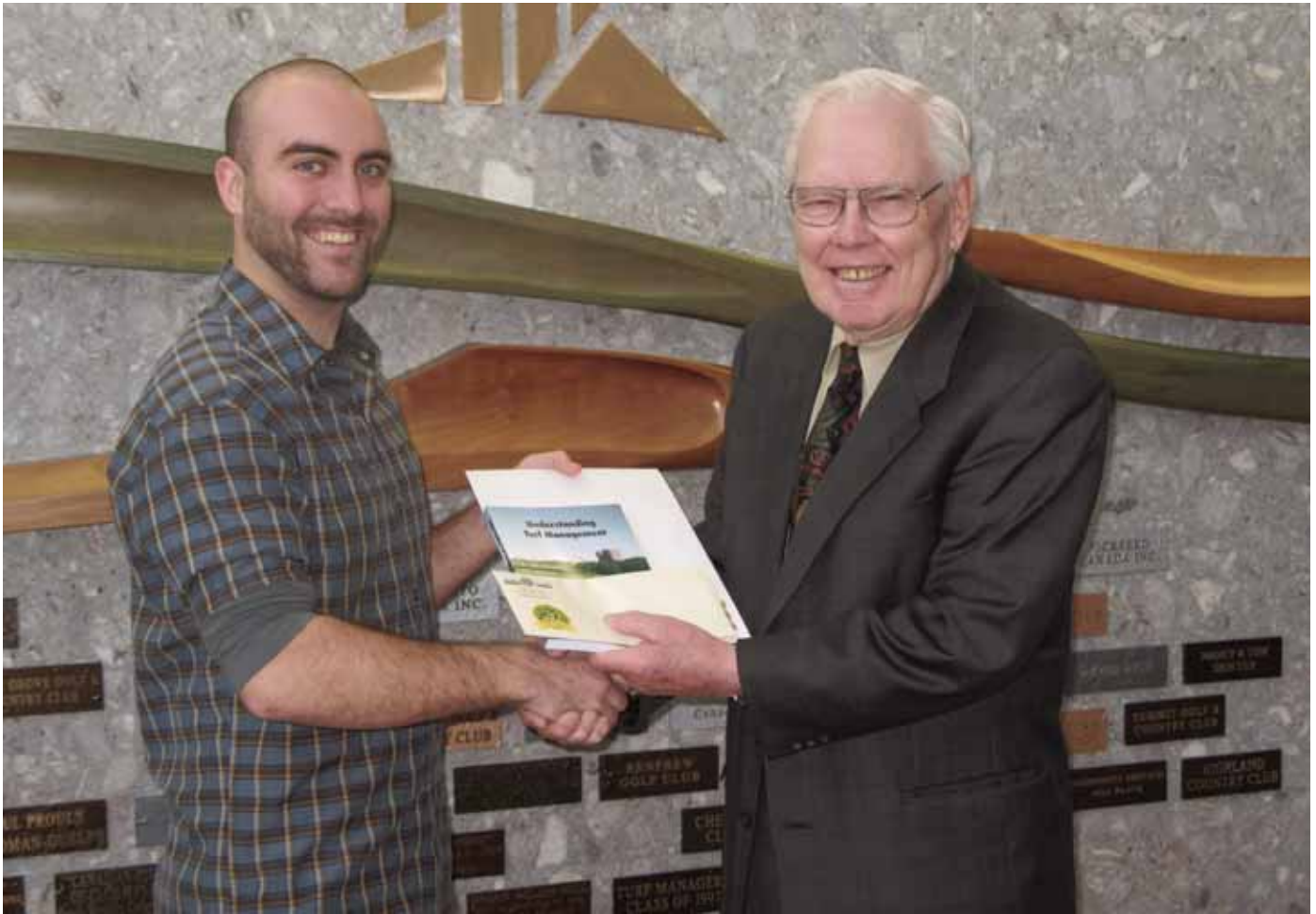
The Verti-Air utilizes a rotary brush and turbine compressed air to lift all material out of the turf, dry and filter the material, sift out the debris and return the clean, dry and decompact infill back into the turf.



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STA Renames Scholarship

IN HONOUR OF LONGTIME DIRECTOR DR. ROBERT W. SHEARD

A scholarship established by the Sports Turf Association (STA) to further its goal of the promotion of safe, natural sports turf through education and professional programs was renamed at the association's annual meeting to honour Dr. Robert W. Sheard.

The STA Scholarship will henceforth be known as the STA Robert W. Sheard Scholarship in recognition of Dr. Sheard's immeasurable contribution and support provided to the Sports Turf Association over the last seventeen years. Bob's involvement with the fledgling organization began in 1990 upon his retirement as a Professor of Soil Science at the University of Guelph. He became the STA's first Executive Secretary and has played a role in most, if not all, association initiatives

since that time. He was editor and a major contributor to the *Sports Turf Newsletter*, now the *Sports Turf Manager*. He edited and produced *An Athletic Field Managers' Guide* and penned the *Constructing the Sports Field* brochure and the text *Understanding Turf Management*, transferring ownership and donating all proceeds to the association. He has served on the boards of the International Turfgrass Society, the Guelph Turfgrass Institute and the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium, among others.

The Scholarship Program, funded through STA membership fees, is intended to assist students in a recognized post-secondary program in turf management with the cost of tuition, books and related expenses. To date, 26 students from across Canada have benefited from these schol-

arships. Applications are available online at www.sportsturfassociation.com.

The 2007 scholarship recipient is Ian Ferguson, a second year student in the University of Guelph's Diploma in Turfgrass Management Program. Born and raised in Guelph, Ontario, he will graduate this spring. Ian is on the Dean's Honours List and spent his required summer internship working with the City of Kitchener in sports field management, assisting in preparations for the World Fastball Championships in August, 2006. His essay, on pages 9-10, is required as part of the scholarship application process and is an example of the calibre of the students the STA plans to support. Congratulations Ian on being the first recipient of the Sports Turf Association Robert W. Sheard Scholarship!

Above: Robert W. Sheard (right) congratulates Ian Ferguson, recipient of the 2007 Sports Turf Association Robert W. Sheard Scholarship.

STA Member Profile

Michael Bladon • Past President

1. You were president of the Sports Turf Association from its inception in 1987 until 1989. What was your role in the turfgrass industry at that time?

At the time I was president of the Sports Turf Association, I was with the Grounds Department at the University of Guelph. Included in that role was the maintenance of 17 acres of athletic fields. I came from Regina, SK, where I was involved with the Wascana Centre Authority, a 2,200 acre parks system where once again part of the job was the maintenance and care of athletic fields. I am retired but still enjoy contact with the STA.

2. What was the biggest challenge in your job at that time?

Keeping people off fields when they were frozen and on warm spring days before they were ready for play, and the old one of two many games scheduled too close together.

3. What was the most satisfying part, what made the job worthwhile for you?

The compliments on occasion from user groups made the work worthwhile.

4. What was the biggest misconception about your job?

That we were sitting by the phone waiting for work.

5. What is your educational/employment background?

I am a graduate of the Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture. On leaving there I was employed in large landscaping – dam sites in Quebec, Trudeau Airport in Montreal, anything over \$5000. I then established a large tree farm in Cambridge where people would come and order trees for their needs 2-5 years later. The trees were then balled, burlapped and shipped by company truck

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to their site. After that, I went to Wascana as an area foreman for six years which is where I met my wife. Then in 1969 I moved to the University of Guelph.

6. Tell us about your family.

I have an extremely supportive wife, one daughter and one son. My wife is a nurse, our son is employed in the horticulture industry and our daughter works in the university system.

7. What do you enjoy doing now that you are retired? Hobbies, favourite past times?

I enjoy volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, the local theatre in various jobs, and am now helping prune an orchard for a non-profit organization. I enjoy painting in oils when I make the time.



8. How has the industry changed and in what direction(s) would you like to see the industry, as a whole, move towards?

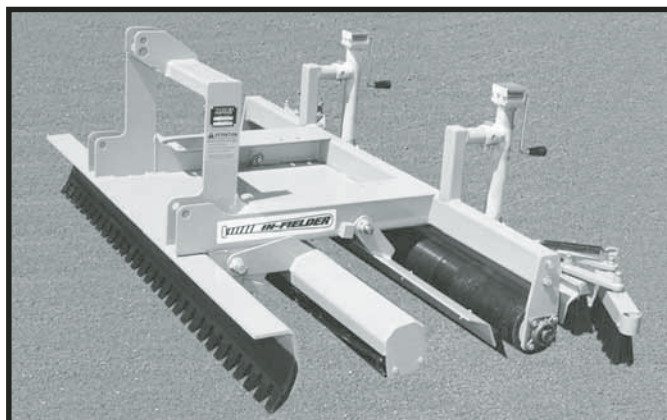
The industry has changed in terms of methods employed in maintenance and construction. I believe that as an association we have helped initiate those changes through books, a newsletter, and single information sheets. User groups are also becoming more knowledgeable and more vocal when field conditions are poor or unsafe.

9. What do you consider to be the biggest benefit of being a member of the STA?

There are several – the newsletter and books that keep one current, field days and conferences each year are both educational and the networking which occurs is invaluable.

10. What would your advice be for current and future presidents of the STA?

Keep current and when attracting new board members ensure they are given a job to do on behalf of the association. As a niche organization there is a need to be vigilant and to continue to plan as to where the association is going and what it must accomplish to reach those goals. Do not back away from change, plan for it and embrace it.



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WEAR TOLERANT GRASSES FOR COLD CLIMATE FIELDS

M.A. ANDERSON AND J.B. ROSS, PRAIRIE TURFGRASS RESEARCH CENTRE, OLDS, ALBERTA

Summary

This trial was initiated to examine the effects of traffic on various grasses for sports fields in a cold climate. Two locations were seeded in 2003, one in Calgary and one in Edmonton. The Calgary site was seeded in late June, and under irrigated conditions, established normally. The Edmonton site was seeded in early September on an unirrigated site. Due to drought stress in 2004 and physical damage from construction equipment working in the area, this site was abandoned in the spring of 2005.

At the Calgary site, athletic events were initiated in the fall of 2004. The plots endured moderate to heavy traffic from mid-August through to the end of October. Cleat injury was visible throughout the site. Damage ranged from moderate shearing of the above ground plant portion (verdure) to the more severe physical uprooting of the plants.

The tall fescue plots exhibited more physical uprooting than the other grasses and the bare patches created in the fall of 2004 required most of the season to fill-in. The perennial ryegrass, Kentucky bluegrass and the sports field mix plots successfully recovered from traffic damage and were rated as acceptable in overall turf quality. The *Poa supina* mix showed the greatest improvement over the course of the season and scored the highest in overall turf quality.

Introduction

During the summer of 2001, the Prairie Turfgrass Research Centre conducted a site visit to the County of Strathcona (Sherwood Park, Alberta) to examine the condition of their sports fields and to assist in the development of a long-term plan for their improvement. Many of the high use fields were characterized by bare areas and thin turf that was a result of extremely high levels of traffic and was exacerbated by drought conditions that were prevalent throughout much of Alberta.

Sports participation, and in particular soccer, has increased dramatically in the last few years. These high participation levels have resulted in sports fields receiving far more traffic than the existing grasses are capable of withstanding. In addition, highly organized leagues in football, softball and baseball have also served to increase traffic on sports fields, particularly in urban areas.

Sports fields grasses in this climate are predominately Kentucky bluegrass and creeping red fescue. These grasses are considered to have only a moderate tolerance to traffic and wear (the effects of abrasive activity from foot traffic). These grasses are, however, quite cold tolerant and as a result survive Canadian Prairie winters quite well. In areas with a moderate climate, i.e. the lower mainland of British Columbia, perennial ryegrass and tall fescue are frequently used in high traffic areas due to their good wear tolerance. However, in Alberta, their lack of cold tolerance has made them unsuitable for use on sports fields or other high traffic areas.

In recent years, many new varieties of perennial ryegrass and tall fescue have been developed, but have never been tested for their cold tolerance. As there are often differences in cold tolerance between varieties, some of these new wear tolerant perennial ryegrasses or tall fescues may have better cold tolerance. In addition, other grasses, such as *Poa supina*, have been successfully used in sports fields in other parts of North America due to their good recovery from traffic but have not been adequately tested for their cold tolerance.

The objective of this trial is to develop additional information regarding wear and cold tolerant grasses that can be used on sports fields.

Specific Objectives of This Trial

- Screen new species and varieties of grasses for improved cold tolerance.
- Evaluate the most promising cold tolerant species and varieties for their wear

tolerance and turfgrass quality under field conditions.

- Evaluate these cold tolerant grasses in different climate zones throughout the province.
- Evaluate mixtures of the best cold and wear tolerant grasses from the field study.

Methodology – Initial Screening

A preliminary screening of 48 grass cultivars for cold tolerance was conducted in order to identify the most suitable cultivars for field-testing. Grasses were grown in the greenhouse and then were subjected to a standard freeze test to determine their relative hardiness levels (Table 1). Twenty-one grasses were chosen for the field study component of this trial. In addition, *Poa supina*, a *Poa supina* and Touchdown Kentucky bluegrass mix, and the City of Calgary standard sports field mix were added.

Methodology – Field Study

Plots that measured 1.5 by 2 metres were arranged in a randomized complete block design (RCBD) and replicated four times. The Calgary site was seeded June 30, 2003, and the Edmonton site was seeded September 3, 2003. Seeding rates were 0.5 kg/100 m² for Kentucky bluegrass, and 3.2 kg/100 m² for the tall fescue and perennial ryegrasses. The plots were seeded by hand using a shaker bottle and were then raked lightly to ensure good seed to soil contact. Irrigation was available at the Calgary site, while the Edmonton site relied solely on natural precipitation.

Over the course of the 2004 season, poor seed germination combined with some physical damage to the plots as a result of further construction at the Edmonton site left most of the turf plots sparse and patchy. After the initial spring rating of 2005, the stands of turf were deemed as not acceptable and the collection of data for this site was discontinued.

At the Calgary site, athletic events were conducted on the turf in the fall of 2004.