

Sports Turf Manager

for safe, natural sports turf

1987-2007

CELEBRATING
★ 20 YEARS ★

Summer 2007

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Turf & Water

See pages 13-26 for extensive coverage of STA's second full-day water workshop held March 29 in Halton. Sessions ranged from the overall watershed perspective right down to individual soil profiles of sports fields.



Editorial – Be Prepared

THE REALITY OF CHEMICAL USE BY R.W. SHEARD, PH.D., P.A.G.

According to their 2006 annual report, environmental issues continue to be of major concern for the members of the Nursery-Landscape and Turfgrass Subcommittee of the Ontario Horticultural Crops Research and Services Committee of OMAFRA. Seventeen municipalities in Ontario have enacted "no pesticide by-laws" and more are pending. The report states that "the increasing number of municipal pesticide bans is proof that the activists are not accepting IPM accreditation." IPM is not being accepted as a reasonable measure to reduce the reliance on pesticides, in part because of information gaps in monitoring and for detection techniques and thresholds.

Even where such legislation is not in effect, the choice of control measures is decreasing. Many of the older formulations of pesticides are being withdrawn voluntarily or as a result of PMRA's re-evaluation which is leaving large gaps in the choices for pest management. Companies who produce biopesticides are reluctant to invest in the development of these products as their potential uses are too small to meet the requirements to register their

products in Canada. It is not clear whether the biopesticides will be accepted by municipalities who have enacted the no pesticide bylaw. This is in effect further reducing the industries incentive to finance their commercialization.

When will the activists call for a chemical-free environment in addition to a pesticide-free environment?

Following the Walkerton event, nutrient and water quality have become an... → page 6

