

Sports Turf Manager

for safe, natural sports turf

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Research at MSU

Playing Surfaces and Injury Risk
Researchers at Michigan State University use a mobile testing apparatus (note the "foot" pictured below) to measure torque on different surface systems. See pp. 12-13 for the results.



Holistic Turf Management in Halifax Regional Municipality

DR. R.W. DANIELS, DEP'T ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES, NS AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE (RETIRED)

Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) consists of approximately 1400 "green sites" which include playgrounds, ball and sports fields. There are approximately 160 ball diamonds and 120 sports fields. A staff of 80 individuals is involved in maintaining these areas with approximately 50 designated specifically to sports and ball fields. The municipality covers a geographic area of 5,600 square kilometres and serves a population of 350,000.

HRM has few concentrated areas of sports fields (complexes), although most are within a 30 minute distance from an equipment depot. The location of these fields requires a great amount of time in transporting equipment and personnel to and between the various sites. All sites and individual fields are located in a pesticide free zone so the turf can

only be improved by using "best management practices," excluding the use of pesticides.

Beginning in the fall of 2006, I was invited by Peter Verge, Superintendent of Sports Fields and Recreational Facilities, to develop and implement a program to improve and upgrade HRM staff and existing turf and playability of these areas with a specific emphasis on recreational fields. At its inception, it was realized that this may take up to five years to accomplish fully. Annual goals were set, and their results are reviewed and modified when necessary on a regular basis.

In setting goals, two specific criteria were followed. Individual yearly goals were developed in advance (at the beginning of each year) and were set high. The premise was that it is preferable to set high goals, even if they are not always attained, rather than set low goals and claim "easy success." → page 8