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SPORTS TURF MANAGER

Volume 22, Issue 3, ISSN 1201-3765

is the official publication of the
SPORTS TURF ASSOCIATION INC.
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SPORTS TURF MANAGER

is published quarterly by the STA for free distribution to its membership. An annual subscription may be obtained for \$60/year. Please direct advertising inquiries to Lee Huether at the STA office.

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CANADA POST PUBLICATIONS MAIL SALES AGREEMENT No. 40031883

Postmaster: Please return undeliverable copies to the STA at 328 Victoria Rd. South, RR 2, Guelph, ON N1H 6H8.



STA OFFICE HOURS

Lee Huether is in the office from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. The office phone number is (519) 763-9431. 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.

The President's Desk – Gord Dol

Wow! Two wet seasons back-to-back. I trust your wet field policies were put to good use to protect your turf in summer and fall 2009!

Talking Turf in The Telephone City

Attendance was again very high at our 22nd annual fall field day with a great line-up of speakers and a first class venue. Thanks to the Field Day Committee for a job well done and to the City of Brantford – especially Brain Hughes, Manager of Parks Services and Lori-Dawn Cavin, Community Events Coordinator – for hosting the event. Thanks also to Walter Gretzky for welcoming and entertaining us and Bob Kennedy and Bruce Carman for chairing the day. I was unable to attend this year but by all accounts, it was another great success. A special thanks to all the sponsors and exhibitors for their time and generosity. See inside for a “snapshot” of September 17!

We will very shortly be focusing our attention on Field Day 2010. As always, your ideas are most welcome. The Field



the board. Now would be the time to consider allowing your name to stand for election. If this interests you, please speak to any board member or call Lee Huether at our office.

A special thanks to all Field Day sponsors and exhibitors who make this popular educational event so successful. Turn to page 12 to view an event photo gallery. Speaker Alan Dore's article examining risk and liability is on pages 17-19 with log sheets and checklists available online.

Day Committee spends a lot of time organizing this event and should be recognized. Members are Jane Arnett-Rivers, Bruce Carman, Bob Kennedy, Dave Chapman, Andrew Gaydon and Paul Turner. Thanks for another job well done!

OTS 2010 in Guelph

The Ontario Turfgrass Symposium is February 17-18 in Rozanski Hall at the University of Guelph. This year promises to be another great educational forum. The Sports Turf Association is proud to be a part of the symposium, now in its 19th year. During the OTS, we hold our annual general meeting which is open to all members. We will also be electing directors to

Nominations for the Robert W. Sheard Scholarship are now being accepted. The deadline for applications is November 1. Details about the scholarship and the application form are available online at www.sportsturfassociation.com.

The list of approved projects under the RInC funding program is on the Industry Canada website at <http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/708.nsf/eng/home>. This fiscal stimulus spending will no doubt make your life a little busier next season.

Winter is fast approaching. The grass will not be green for much longer. Take some time out to enjoy it! ♦

Calendar of Events

November 1

Robert W. Sheard Scholarship
Application Deadline
Sports Turf Association ★
Info: 519.763.9431
www.sportsturfassociation.com

December 2

Ontario Recreation Facilities
Association Facilities Operational
Forum & Annual General Meeting
Milton, ON
Info: www.orfa.com

December 18

Early Bird Registration Deadline
Ontario Turfgrass Symposium ★
Info: 519-767-5000
www.open.uoguelph.ca/ots

2010

January 12-14

Landscape Ontario Congress
Toronto, ON
Info: 800-265-5656
www.locongress.com

January 12-16

Sports Turf Managers Association
21st Annual Conference & Exhibition
Orlando, Florida
Info: www.stma.org

January 31 to February 3

Western Canada Turfgrass Association
47th Annual Conference & Show
Nanaimo, BC
Info: 1-866-366-5097
www.wctaturf.com

February 1-26

University of Guelph
Turf Managers' Short Course
Guelph, ON
Info: 519-767-5000
http://tmsc.open.uoguelph.ca

February 12-28

The Vancouver 2010 Olympic Games
March 12-21
2010 Paralympic Games
Info: www.vancouver2010.com

February 18 & 19

Ontario Turfgrass Symposium
The Culture of Green
University of Guelph
Guelph, ON ★
Info: 519-767-5000
www.open.uoguelph.ca/ots

February 26 to March 2

43rd Annual Canadian International
Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show
Toronto, ON
Info: www.golfsupers.com

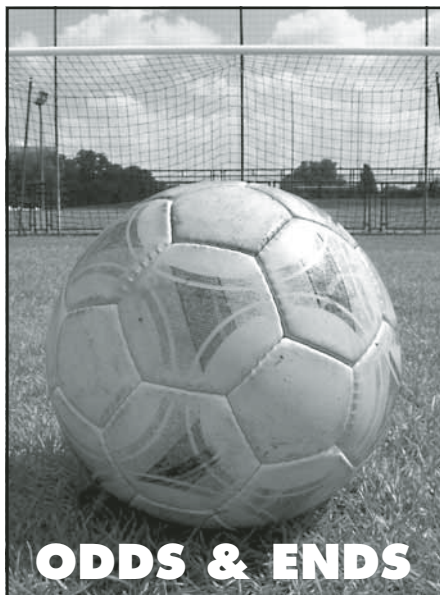
TURF MANAGERS' SHORT COURSE CONTINUES INTO ITS 4TH DECADE

Guelph, ON – The 41st offering of the Turf Managers' Short Course (TMSC) continues its tradition of providing academic and industry turf expertise to turf professionals. This highly valued four-week certificate program is held at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute, University of Guelph from February 1 to 26, 2010. Explore issues facing today's professional turf manager: turf identification and management; soils; management of insects and diseases; irrigation techniques; and construction and drainage. Turf managers and staff will gain expertise and competencies in practical and applied turf management.

For more information on this unique classroom experience, visit the web site <http://tmsc.open.uoguelph.ca/> and download the TMSC brochure. Call 519-767-5000 or email info@open.uoguelph.ca.

"The Turf Managers' Short Course continues its long tradition of providing turf care education to Canadians and international students," says Rob Witherspoon, Director, Guelph Turfgrass Institute.

"The TMSC is a unique learning experience which provides the expertise of both industry and academic instructors," adds Pat Shaver, Manager, Program Development, Office of Open Learning, University of Guelph. "Students receive the most current scientific research and practical and applied turf management practices and techniques."



ODDS & ENDS

STA Membership Plaques

Display membership plaques are available in executive engraved walnut for \$50 plus S&H and gst. To order, contact Lee at the STA office.

Winter 2009 Submissions

If you have something you'd like to submit for the next issue, please forward it to the STA office by November 13, 2009.

Editorial Content

Opinions expressed in articles published in *Sports Turf Manager* are those of the author and not necessarily those of the STA, unless otherwise indicated.

Ontario Turfgrass Symposium Responds to Culture of Green

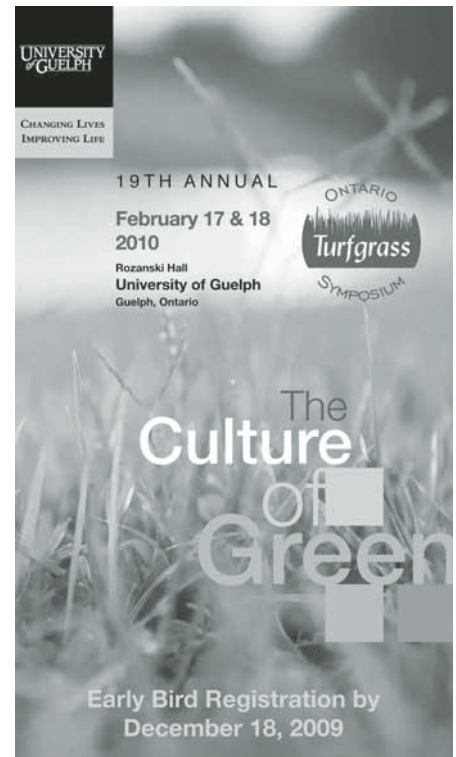
The University of Guelph will host the 19th annual Ontario Turfgrass Symposium (OTS), February 17th and 18th, 2010 at Rozanski Hall. Speakers from both industry and academia will provide valuable insights reflecting the OTS 2010 theme – *The Culture of Green*.

Delegates will participate in sessions providing up-to-date information responding to the complexities of maintaining healthy turf in today's more restrictive growing environment. Sports turf and facility managers, golf and lawn care professionals and nursery sod growers will

all benefit from the many topics including: new pest and disease controls, turf maintenance tactics, safety and liability issues for turf managers and other industry-related topics.

Turf industry leaders and associated staff will benefit from both learning sessions and the ability to network with colleagues in the turf industry. Attending OTS provides insight into best practices as initiated from leaders in turf sciences locally, nationally and internationally.

Visit the conference website at www.open.uoguelph.ca/ots or call 519.767.5000 for more information.



Robert W. Sheard STA Scholarship Application Deadline: November 1

In order to encourage, support and provide leadership to those considering a career in the sports turf industry, the STA offers the Robert W. Sheard Scholarship. One scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 may be awarded annually.

We encourage you to apply for the STA Robert W. Sheard Scholarship if you:

- are a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant;
- are currently enrolled in and have completed one full year of education in a post-secondary program in turf management at a recognized college or university in Canada; or, have completed the University

of Guelph's Turf Managers' Short Course, or equivalent, in the current year;

- have been employed in the sports turf industry in the current year (including seasonal employment) by a member of the Sports Turf Association;
- have a desire to pursue a career in the sports turf industry.

The Scholarship Program is funded through STA membership fees. The award is intended to assist students with the cost of tuition, books and related expenses.

Visit www.sportsturfassociation.com for scholarship policies, application requirements and an application form.

STA WEBSITE SEARCH STATS

In reviewing the most recent statistics for the STA website, the most common search phrases were 1) sports turf association and 2) Sarritor. Presumably searchers were able to gather the information they were seeking with respect to the Sports Turf Association during their visit. Information regarding Sarritor may be obtained from the company website, www.sarritor.ca. There will also be a session addressing its performance in the field at the 2010 Ontario Turfgrass Symposium. Visit the OTS website www.open.uoguelph.ca/ots for details as they become available.

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ALTERNATIVE PEST CONTROLS FOR TURF IN ONTARIO *plus* TIPS FOR A HEALTHY LAWN

The Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation (OTRF) and the Ontario Horticultural Trades Foundation (OHTF) have launched a new pesticide alternatives brochure. It includes a scientific literature review of alternative pest controls for turf in Ontario. This review (reproduced below) was conducted by the University of Guelph based on scientifically published information prior to 2008. It will be updated on a continuous basis as additional alternatives are scientifically proven and released in scientific journals. The brochure, intended to be consumer user friendly, has instructions and tips on product applications specific to target pests. It also has current recommendations for lawn maintenance on how to out-compete weeds for a healthy lawn. The complete brochure is available at www.otrf.ca.

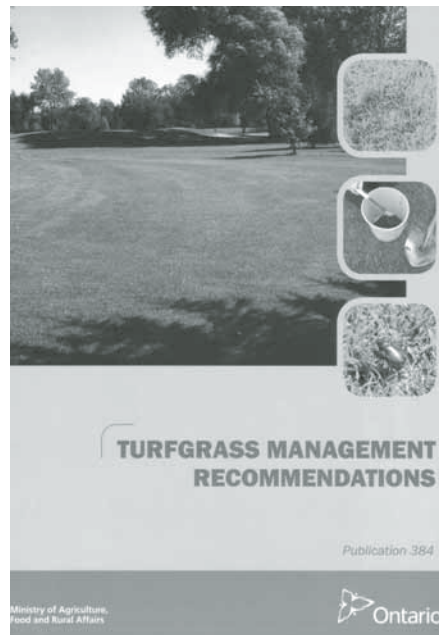
SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE REVIEW OF ALTERNATIVE PEST CONTROLS FOR TURF IN ONTARIO

Product	Target Pests	Instructions & Tips	Research Studies
Corn gluten meal	Crabgrass and broadleaf weeds (dandelion and white clover)	Must be applied before weeds emerge in early spring and late summer/early fall on established lawns only. Water the lawn until the soil is moist but not wet and then apply. Do not apply in wind and ensure rainfall or irrigation within 2 days. Do not overseed with grass seed for six weeks after an application.	Effective on germinating seedlings of broadleaf weeds and crabgrass, but not on established weeds. For crabgrass, must be used pre-emergence (early spring when forsythia is in full bloom). Field studies show that labeled rate is relatively ineffective in most cases, but if used for several years it will reduce weeds.
Sclerotinia minor (<i>Sarritor</i>) Product availability limited at this time.	Dandelions	Must be followed by rainfall or irrigation for 20 minutes a day for a minimum of 2 days. Works best when temperature is moderate (18-24°C) and skies are cloudy with high relative humidity. Do not apply on lawn areas that border flower or vegetable gardens.	Works best as a spot treatment on individual weeds rather than as a broadcast treatment applied with a fertilizer spreader. Moisture and humidity are necessary for this product to work.
Acetic acid	Broadleaf weeds	Apply in warm, sunny weather to weeds less than 10 cm in height. This product will kill all plants that are sprayed (grasses and weeds).	Primary use is as a burn-down to kill all vegetation. For complete control of weeds, the product may need to be applied several times.
Fatty acid (Potassium salts or ammonium soaps)	Moss, algae, broadleaf weeds on driveways, patios, sidewalks.	Will kill all plants that are sprayed. Spray weeds until completely wet.	N/A
Entomopathogenic nematodes	Grubs, caterpillars (cutworm and armyworm)	Sensitive to sunlight, drying out and extremes in temperature. Water immediately after treatment to get nematodes into the soil both to prevent drying out and to provide contact with insects.	Results are extremely variable on grubs and caterpillars. Research trials using nematodes to control leatherjackets have not shown that they work. There are no published results using nematodes to control hairy chinch bugs.



Turfgrass Management Recommendations Revised and Published by OMAFRA

The eagerly awaited revised Publication 384 produced by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs is now available. In it you will find answers to questions on turf fertilization, water management and insect, disease and weed control. There is information on the best turfgrass species to use for sod farms, golf courses, sports fields and home lawns. The pesticide recommendations for turf insect, disease and weed control are intended for professional turfgrass managers in Ontario. Whether you are a sod farmer, a golf course superintendent, a lawn care operator or a sports turf manager, this is a great resource for your shop shelf. Copies can be ordered conveniently online at www.serviceontario.ca/publications.



NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the STA!

Charmaine Sawchyn
Richard Chapman
City of Regina, SK

Kelly Williams
City of Kingston, ON

Luc Poirier
Carpell Surfaces Inc., Granby, QC

Mark Miller
Town of Caledon, ON

Morgan Jones
Town of Markham, ON

Toufic Hibri
Gazonroll Turfgrass, Beirut, Lebanon

Athletic Field Construction Manual

CLASSIFICATION | SPECIFICATIONS | FIELD EVALUATION | FIELD DIMENSIONS



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NATURAL GRASS WILL BE A PERMANENT FEATURE IN TORONTO'S BMO FIELD



Latest News. The proposal to replace BMO Field's artificial turf with natural grass received overwhelming support and approval from the Board of Governors of Exhibition Place on September 11 and again by Toronto City Council on September 30. Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment will shoulder the \$5.5 million dollar price tag which includes \$3.5 million for the natural grass conversion at BMO Field, 1.2 million for the relocation of its bubble to Lamport Stadium and \$800,000 for a new artificial field in the community. STA Member Claus Zander of Zander Sod Co. Limited will be speaking at the 2010 Ontario Turfgrass Symposium about the project's sod production and specifications, and the challenges of installation and removal. The following article from thestar.com provides an interesting overview of the situation.

Real Madrid gets the grass that Toronto FC can only hope for... August 6, Daniel Girard, Sports Reporter

It's the field of TFC's dreams. The much-maligned artificial turf of BMO Field gave way to the real thing yesterday as a crew of 18 finished laying the grass ahead of the arrival of European soccer giant Real Madrid for an international friendly against Toronto FC.

"This is a 10-day solution," Bob Hunter, executive vice-president of Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment, said of the lifespan of the four-inch thick sod being put down.

"It's a temporary solution to reflect the quality of the team that we're playing Friday night," he said.

Trucked in from Alliston by NGF Golf of Campbellville, which spends most of its time laying fairways not soccer fields, the 24-hour installation was completed last night in time for Real Madrid's practice before thousands tonight.

The company consulted with crews in the New Jersey Meadowlands who laid turf down for US national team games.



COURTESY OF CLAUS ZANDER

For purists of the beautiful game, the sight of the sun glistening off the sprinkler-soaked grass on a spectacular summer day was no doubt a treat. It will be fleeting, however, as the sod – double the thick-

ness of what typically gets put down as a lawn – is to be torn up Sunday and thrown away.

But more than just a move to make the visitors feel welcome, Hunter said the \$250,000 outlay for temporary grass was “a key condition” to getting the winners of a record 31 Spanish titles and nine European Cups to bring their high-priced lineup to Toronto as part of a two-game tour of North America.

“They have obviously two or three of the world’s best players on their squad,” he said of newly acquired talent headlined by Cristiano Ronaldo, Kaka and Karim Benzema, who are part of about \$385 million in off-season signings by the club.

“They only play on grass.” Real Madrid has two or three of the world’s best players on their squad. They, as well as everyone involved with Toronto FC from club management to star Dwayne DeRosario to those going through the turnstiles, have called for permanent grass.

“They only play on grass.”

Real Madrid plays again Sunday, facing D.C. United on the grass of FedEx Field in Landover, Md.

Since even before TFC played its first home game at BMO Field in April 2007, the FieldTurf has been a source of controversy for players and fans alike. But the issue has boiled over this season in part because everyone, from club management to star Dwayne De Rosario to those going through the turnstiles, have called for permanent grass.

Hunter, who put the price tag at about \$3.5 million, including a heating system for spring and fall as well as drainage and aeration, said MLSE, which owns TFC, agrees and is ready to pay the cost.

“To make the game as authentic as it’s supposed to be, natural grass is your long-term solution,” he said.

But it’s not that simple.

A key part of the deal to secure government funding for the \$63 million stadium was providing year-round access to the playing field. That resulted in turf and installation of a bubble each winter.

Last year, community use accounted for about 1,500 hours at BMO Field for everything from exercise classes to youth soccer.

Until MLSE comes up with a plan to accommodate that public use elsewhere, it will be difficult to get political approval to convert the stadium playing surface to grass.

“It’s very popular with the community and it’s the only real bubble in the downtown core,” said Dianne Young, chief executive officer at Exhibition Place, which manages the site, including BMO Field.

Noting the whole purpose of the funding arrangement was to “promote local sports,” Young said there have been talks with MLSE but no formal proposal has come forward to make the conversion to grass.

Once the pitch comes forward, it could take a couple of months to get it before city council, she said.

Hunter, who insisted the stadium’s community use provision is “absolutely the right thing to do with public money,” said MLSE still hopes to get approval for a conversion early this fall so it could be done in time for next season but added it’s more likely to be for 2011.

Meanwhile, Hunter is sure the temporary field will pass the test of the club that FIFA, the sport’s governing body, voted the most successful of the 20th century.

“We’re confident they’ll find this very suitable to play on,” he said. ♦

— Reprinted with permission, Torstar Syndication Services

EMPLOYMENT ONLINE

Are you advertising a position or job searching? Visit us online at www.sportsturfassociation.com and click on “Turf Trades” or call Lee Huether at the STA office for details. The cost to post an ad is only \$75 for STA members (2-month listing).

Numbers Game

\$250,000 Cost to install real grass at BMO Field

10 Days the grass will last

24 Hours to install the field

18 People to put in the field

10 Tractor-trailer loads of sod

3x100 Feet, size of the sod rolls
4 Thickness of sod in inches

24 Hours to take the field out when it’s all over

The Real Deal

Here’s a list of significant team moments unrelated to its numerous championship titles that made the Real Madrid one of the most famous teams in the world:

1902

Madrid Club de Fútbol founded.

1920

Real, meaning royal, added to team name after endorsement by Spain’s King Alfonso XIII.

1931

Real title dropped and crown removed from team crest after downfall of the monarchy.

1941

Real name and crown restored two years after the end of the Spanish Civil War.

1947

First Spanish team to add numbers to its jerseys.

2001

Team crest updated by changing traditionally coloured mulberry stripe to blue.

2006

Record home game attendance set at 83,329. Official stadium capacity: 80,354.

Guest Editorial

IS SAND-CAPPING A GOOD IDEA?

An article in the summer edition of the *Sports Turf Manager* by Kowalewski, Crum and Rogers with the Michigan State University turf research group deserves comment. Their concept of repeated yearly sand-capping to build a sand root zone over a four year period and thus improve the performance of sports fields is worthy of consideration on heavier textured soils, however, the user should be aware of potential pitfalls.

R.W. Sheard, Prof. Soil Science (retired), University of Guelph

The original idea, known as a sand carpet, was successfully developed at The Sports Turf Research Institute at Bingley in the UK several decades ago, although it was not designed to provide the depth of sand the authors of this article propose. Furthermore, the end product of the Michigan system after four years of repeated topdressings will, in part, be equivalent to the California Construction Method described in Section 4.3.5 of the Sports Turf Association's *Athletic Field Construction Manual*.

The system proposed, however, calls for 10-15 cm of a sand-based root zone over the original soil surface with a sub-surface drainage system at 6 metre spacing. This is only half the depth of sand required for an STA Category 1 field and double the spacing of the drainage lines for the California Construction Method. The proposed depth of sand and spacing of drainage lines will produce drainage draw-down lines that have near saturated conditions for extended periods of time at the mid point between the drainage lines, resulting in the potential loss of use of the



field for these periods or severe damage to the turf if used.

Movement of water from the mid-point between drainage lines occurs by lateral and vertical flow. Under their system, water movement will be primarily by relatively slow, capillary lateral flow with little influence of the stronger force of gravity on the flow. Thus to reduce the possibility of periods of saturation, the drain lines should be placed relatively close together. Vertical flow by gravity will not occur until a saturated zone is built up at the interface between the sand capping

