

Grow Your Knowledge

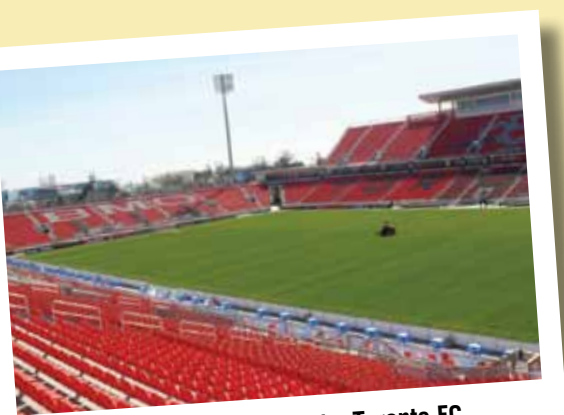
OTS 2012, FEBRUARY 22 & 23, 2012, ROZANSKI HALL, UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

Sports Turf & ORFA Specific Sessions

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

T1. Synthetic turf: Understanding certifications and testing. Alistair Cox, Labosport.

An increasing number of sports governing bodies are setting standards for playing and material qualities of their synthetic sports surfaces. This session will describe how standards are set, what characteristics they cover and how governing bodies certify products and installations. Learn why an increasing number of markets around the world now use these standards as the basis of construction specifications for new fields, courts and track.



BMO Field, Home of the Toronto FC.

T2. What Lies Beneath BMO Field. Rob Heggie, BMO Field.

This session provides a brief history of the construction of BMO Field and illustrates some of the systems such as SubAir and glycol heating that helped to deliver green, natural turf in April. Also learn about the maintenance challenges of a sports field that is sodded with a native soil sod placed upon a sand based root-zone. Future plans for BMO's field surface are also discussed.

T3. Problems facing sports field managers. Brad Park, Rutgers University.

Some of the most common problems facing sports field managers include field overuse, poor drainage conditions, baseball and softball skin surface irregularities, and encroachment of summer annual weeds. This talk will take a case study approach to defining these problems and providing solutions that can be accomplished using practical methods.

T4. Rhizomatous tall fescue and regenerating perennial ryegrasses for sportsfields.

Dr. Joseph Wipff, Barenbrug. How do these differ from traditional tall fescue and ryegrasses and what are the applications of rhizomatous tall fescue and regenerating perennial ryegrasses on a sports field.

T5. An update of the bioherbicide Phoma macrostoma and its potential use on sports fields. Dr. Karen Bailey/Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Stuart Falk/The Scotts Company.

Phoma macrostoma is a new bioherbicide registered in Canada in 2011. Pre-emergent applications control emerging dandelion and other broadleaved weed seedlings, reducing the weed seed bank and preventing new weed establishment in established turfgrass or when sowing grass seed. The presentation will show how application may be beneficial in the maintenance of sports fields.

General Sessions

T21. Circle checks are not just for your equipment. Terry Piche, Ontario Recreation Facilities Association.

The injury and death rate for park workers is three times higher than other workers. The parks' workforce is varied: permanent, part-time and/or seasonal staff that includes young and new workers with a range of job experience, literacy levels, and health and safety training. Have you prepared for the health and safety of your staff?

T22. Turf things microscopic. Dr. Tom Hsiang, Dr. Ken Carey & Aurora Patchett/University of Guelph, Shahram Shariffar/Natural Insect Control, Pam Charbonneau/OMAFRA.

This session will take advantage of on campus laboratory space to allow participants the use of dissecting microscopes to see things not easily seen with the naked eye. This includes mycelium and spores of turf, disease causing organisms, grub rasters, plant parasitic nematodes, insect parasitic nematodes and grass vegetative features.

T23. Cultural practices for high school and municipal sports fields. Dr. François Tardif/University of Guelph, Gord Dol/Dol Turf Restoration, Ken Pavely/Dufferin Lawn Life.

This session covers the results of a three-year trial that examined overseeding at the GTI and City of Guelph in-use soccer fields as part of an integrated weed management system. Also presented is a 2010 study looking at the relative effectiveness of different aeration methods and slow release nitrogen products.

Browse the OTS brochure for more sessions and details!

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SEED PRICES FOR 2012 & A NEW RYEGRASS

For the past couple of years, purchasers of turfgrass seed have enjoyed the consequences of larger supply inventories and reduced demand (at least stateside). And as we all know, in the world of commodity pricing, what goes down eventually heads back up.

FORCES AFFECTING PRICING FOR 2012 INCLUDE:

- Shrinking inventories. Growers report their excess inventories are gone.
- Slowly increasing demand continent-wide (Cnd. market has remained strong).
- Production changes. A portion of the acreage that was devoted previously to turfgrass seed production has moved to agricultural crops such as wheat and other grains. Quite simply, farmers are going to grow crops that provide a better return, and grains are now outpacing returns over turfgrass seed.

As a result, our industry can expect price increases ranging from 5-15%. Of course, the Canadian dollar versus the American greenback will also play a factor for those varieties grown in the US.

INTRODUCING NATURAL KNIT™. Perennial ryegrass has consistently been an important component of a sports turf manager's management regime. The introduction of stoloniferous ryegrass adds a new twist in keeping the centres of your fields from succumbing to the pressures of daily use.

Natural Knit™ spreading perennial ryegrass sends out pseudo-stolons from the base of the mother plant, either running at or just below the soil surface. One breeder reported stolons measuring several feet in length. Stolon production begins after vernalization (induction of the flowering stage), and this is important to remember when setting expectations. There can be a huge variance in the percentage of plants that send out the stolons. Numbers can be as low as 11% and as high as 100%, so due diligence is necessary when sourcing this seed.

Test data showed a marked improvement in turfgrass quality in high traffic environments. Seed size is smaller than traditional rye, resulting in a higher count per pound of product. Numbers reported are 268,000/lb vs. traditional rye at 247,000/lb. Natural Knit has been shown to be rather aggressive, and in a sports



field situation, this can be a very good characteristic when a manager is struggling to keep turf in a goalmouth or down the middle. One breeder reports his cultivar has outstanding rust resistance as well. And, despite the stoloniferous reproduction, there is no thatch development.

Finally, winter hardiness has traditionally been a question mark for ryegrasses, and there is no indication at this point about any improvement in this area. Still, in a regular overseeding program, a 100% application of Natural Knit, or a blend with it, could improve turf quality in high traffic situations.

Contact your seed supplier this winter for further information.

— Ken Pavely, LawnLife Natural Turf Products

Editor's Note: Look for what's new in turf species at the 2012 Ontario Turfgrass Symposium; in sessions and in the concourse with our sponsor companies.

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POSA Synthetic Turf Workshop

NOVEMBER 10, 2011, CIVIC RECREATION COMPLEX, OSHAWA, ONTARIO



Continued Learning & Networking...

FOLLOWING UP ON LAST YEAR'S HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL professional development opportunity, this repeat workshop was offered under the leadership and co-ordination of the Parks and Open Space Alliance (POSA). More than 50 sports turf, facilities and parks professionals participated in sessions with leading industry speakers on the topic of synthetic turf. Our appreciation is extended to speakers Dru Chillingworth/City of Oshawa, Mario Pecchia/City of Toronto, Mark Nicholls/Turf Industry, UBU Sports, Gord Dol/Dol Turf Restoration Ltd., and Cliff Towers and Carmen Roberto/City of Mississauga. They, together with our exhibitors, presented a first-rate educational and networking experience for our delegates.

The City of Oshawa was a gracious host and we were among the first to experience the meeting room facilities at the newly renovated and expanded Civic Recreation Complex. The Complex received government infrastructure funding for the modernization and expansion of the facility. The project included:

- Replacing the Civic Auditorium Arena with an indoor multipurpose field house that has an international size artificial turf playing surface.
- A reconstructed parking lot.
- A new lit outdoor artificial turf playing field.
- Replacing the natural grass turf on Civic Fields Stadium field with an artificial turf playing surface.
- Replacing the existing running track with a higher quality rubberized track surface.
- Replacing the Stadium's field lighting, fencing, sound system and expanding parking.
- Upgrading the Stadium.

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Main photo: November 10, 2011, the two new artificial turf fields with the grass rugby field in the background. Inset: Same view in mid-May 2011.

A University of Guelph Turfgrass Story

Bill Clausen, Facility Manager, Athletics Department, University of Guelph

Continued from cover... soccer, rugby and women's field hockey. Each program had their own practice/game field. Intramural use was extensive but focused on Monday to Thursday evenings after varsity practices.

Between 1971 and 2009, actual field inventory grew by only four slow-pitch diamonds and two small multipurpose spaces suitable for ultimate Frisbee. Meanwhile, student population had grown to 22,000 students. Varsity programs now include men's football, soccer, rugby, lacrosse, women's field hockey, rugby, soccer, lacrosse and softball. We more than doubled our student population and the number of varsity teams using our fields while adding minimally to the inventory. Field use was consistently from 4:30 pm to dark on the unlit fields, 4:30 pm until midnight on the lit fields Monday through Thursday, 2:30 pm until 9:30 pm on lit fields Friday, 10:00 am until 5:00 pm Saturdays and noon to midnight on Sundays.

By the first of October each year, the lit fields were definitely showing significant wear; by Thanksgiving they were mud bowls if it was a wet fall, dust bowls if dry. The unlit fields began to show significant wear after Thanksgiving and some years much earlier if we had excessive hours of use during the spring and summer.

In 2005, the Department of Athletics contracted the Consulting Services Division of the Guelph Turfgrass Institute to review our playing fields and provide a report and recommendations for improving field conditions. Among their recommendations was the establishment of one artificial turf field on the existing soccer pitch.

In 2007, the Athletic Facilities Master Plan was written. This plan suggested the need for four artificial turf fields to provide safe playing conditions year round for the department's ever expanding programs and requests from external users. In 2008, the students voted in a referendum to support a new Athletic Centre and new field

complex on the east side of campus with an additional student building fee for the next 30 years.

In May 2010, construction began on a new artificial surface on the rugby pitch suitable for soccer, football, field hockey, lacrosse and rugby. The field was completed in time for fall sports to begin their training camps on August 15, 2010. The Department of Athletics hosted Ontario University Association league, rugby, soccer, lacrosse and field hockey games throughout the fall culminating in hosting the Canadian Intercollegiate Women's Field Hockey Championships in November. Intramural programs used every hour available for touch football and soccer.

The Guelph Youth Soccer Association took to the artificial field in April 2011 when the natural grass fields were not open and the feedback was outstanding.

Venture Construction acted as the lead in this design-build project with Centaur

Products supplying the Polytan artificial turf. The project was completed on time and within its \$1.8 million dollar budget.

In May 2011, construction on Phase One of the new Gryphon Soccer Complex began with five weeks of rain. Stantec was the lead on this design-bid-build project and they provided an exceptional design that is practical and aesthetically pleasing. Wilco Landscaping acted as the General Contractor with Fairway Electric, AWS and Centaur Products as the major sub-contractors.

The additional artificial fields have allowed the Grounds Department to focus on the remaining natural grass fields and this year, Alumni Stadium was in the best condition it has been in since 1992.

The two lit soccer pitches were both completed in time for fall training camps to begin by August 15. The half-sized practice field was completed in late September. The natural grass rugby pitch was sodded the first week of November and will be ready for play next August.

Despite horrible weather conditions at the start of the project and during October, the project has been completed on time and within the Phase One budget.

Since the Gryphon Soccer Complex opened in mid-August, intercollegiate soccer, lacrosse and rugby training camps, practices and regular season games have been held. Intramural soccer, touch football and ultimate Frisbee fill almost every remaining hour. The 2011 OUA Women's Field Lacrosse Championships took place there in October.

The additional artificial fields have allowed the Grounds Department to focus on the remaining natural grass fields and Alumni Stadium was in the best condition it has been in since 1992. Intramural sports now have the opportunity to play on superior turf from the beginning to the end of the season. The entire process from planning to implementation has been a positive, successful one for all involved – especially the users.



Credit: Martin Scwalbe

Photo Captions. **Top:** The west field prepared for the installation of the “granular o” drainage material. **Middle:** Centaur Product's installation crew laying the first two rows of Polytan Turf on the east field. **Above:** Compact Sod's staff applying the finishing touches to the rugby field. **Adjacent Aerial:** The two full-sized artificial turf fields and the half-sized practice field.



Trinity College (MMM Group)

Construction Costs & Selection For a Natural Turf Field

Ben Tymchyshyn, Landscape Architect, Associate
Landscape Architecture & Urban Design, MMM Group Limited

How does one determine what type of natural sports field you can afford to construct? There are many decisions that need to be made by user groups and programming staff prior to determining whether you require a high performance sand-based natural turf field or a non-modified natural turf field.

Based on my firm's (MMM Group Limited) experience over the past several years, the selection between a sand-based and non-modified natural turf field can be a difficult choice for the client as the costs for many of the fields can surpass \$200,000. Site selection is a major factor in determining sports field type. Whether the existing field is being replaced, a new field is being built, the field is a re-development of a brown-field, or the field is being built on landfill or engineered fill, the site will impact the choice of field.

There are numerous decisions that need to be made prior to constructing a natural turf field including:

- Is the site selection suitable for natural turf fields?
- Do you require FIFA accreditation or that of another international organization?
- Is field lighting a requirement?
- Is irrigation a requirement?

- Is drainage a requirement?
- And finally, you will need to hire a consultant with experience and understanding of natural turf.

Figure 1 on the adjacent page will aid in determining the type of natural turf field that is appropriate for your community and its needs.

Natural Turf: Athletic Field Pricing

Based on my experience with MMM Group Limited, I have outlined average field pricing for each category of natural turf in Table 1.

Pricing is based upon a new (green) build site or a renovation within an existing open space. Assumptions for the above pricing are that the field will be contained within a 120 x 75 square metre area and that all options within the field categories have been included within pricing.

Table 2 on page 21 outlines the permitting hours for the five categories of fields.

Note that Figure 1 (adapted) and Table 2 are from the *Athletic Field Construction Manual*, Sports Turf Association, 2008.

Design Team

Once you have determined the type of field, you will need to assemble and hire a design team. >> cont. on page 21

Table 1. Average field pricing for categories of natural turf fields.

Category	Price Per Field
1	\$575,000
2	\$520,000
3	\$475,000
4	\$410,000
5	\$280,000
Lighting	\$300,000

Figure 1: Summary of field categories based upon the Athletic Field Construction Manual, Sports Turf Association, 2008.

LIGHTS

Drainage

- Irrigation

Sand-based (Category 1)

Less than 25% silt plus clay (Category 2)

25-40% silt plus clay (Category 3)

- No irrigation (not recommended)

No Drainage (not recommended)

NO LIGHTS

Drainage

- Irrigation

Sand-based (Category 1)

Less than 25% silt plus clay (Category 2)

25-40% silt plus clay (Category 3)

Greater than 40% silt plus clay (Category 4)

- No Irrigation

Less than 25% silt plus clay (not recommended)

25-40% silt plus clay (Category 3)

Greater than 40% silt plus clay (Category 4)

No Drainage

- Irrigation (not recommended)

- No Irrigation

All soils (Category 5)

Athletic Field Construction Manual

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