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Sports Turf Manager

FOR BETTER, SAFER SPORTS TURF. SUMMER 2012.

Summer - May all your weeds be wildflowers. ~Unknown



Inside this issue...

REGULAR COLUMNS, DEPARTMENTS & SMALL FEATURES

- 4** **The President's Desk.** It's Summer. Are you ready?
- 6** **Our roots run 25 years deep.** A look at STA resources throughout the years
- 8** **Event Calendar.** SAVE THE DATE! 25th Anniversary Banquet, October 25, 2012
- 24** **STA Publication – Revised Edition** Get your copy of the newly published *Athletic Field Construction Manual*

Deadline for Fall 2012 Sports Turf Manager: September 8

WHAT'S ONLINE

www.sportsturfassociation.com

Sports Turf Manager

Searchable online digitized archive to complete backfiles of the magazine. In the 'Publications' section.

Turfgrass Information File

Michigan State University via the Michael J. Bladon Link. In the 'Members Only' section.

Events

Check the calendar often for current updates!

Sports Turf Manager

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328 Victoria Road South
Guelph, ON N1L 0H2

Tel: (519) 763-9431

Fax: (519) 766-1704

E-mail: info@sportsturfassociation.com

Web: www.sportsturfassociation.com

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direct advertising inquiries to
Lee Huether at the STA office.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Ken Pavely, Ben Tymchyshyn
and Lee Huether

PUBLISHER

Jackie Ranahan

Mach One Communications

Tel: (519) 846-0446

E-mail: jackie@thinkmachone.com

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STA OFFICE HOURS

Lee Huether is in the office from
9:00 am to 2:00 pm Tuesday
through Friday. 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.

President's Desk

BY PAUL GILLEN

Well, we're a long way into the growing season after a mild winter and spring. How many of you are now paying the price trying to keep up with the growth? We're hearing a lot about the accelerated weed pressure and the limited resources available to deal with it. Safe and Playable is a tough mandate when the constraints are beyond your control, but we all have to keep trying.

We have at least one politician in Ontario who tried to do something about it. The Private Member's Bill sought to ease the restrictions on pesticide use allowing it with a licence of a prescribed class. Alas, politics took precedence

SAFE AND PLAYABLE IS A TOUGH MANDATE WHEN CONSTRAINTS ARE BEYOND YOUR CONTROL

and the bill was defeated, but it did serve to bring the problem to the forefront. This is in contrast to the British Columbia situation where the standing committee examining the proposed ban in that province reported back to the legislature that there was no good scientific evidence to support a total ban. Common sense does exist out there; too bad

it doesn't cross provincial boundaries.

We are pleased to be able to bring you more highlights from the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium. This annual winter conference always produces the latest technology and research updates and we are proud to be a sponsoring partner.

As we move through our 25th anniversary year each magazine issue examines some of the highlights of your association from the past. The importance of sports turf in our communities has grown exponentially over the years, and we have been

there every step of the way. Mark your calendar for the 25th Annual Field Day, September 20 at The Soccer Centre in Vaughan, as well as the 25th Anniversary Banquet, October 25 at Victoria Park East Golf Club in Guelph. Details of both will be on the website soon.

The second edition of the *Athletic Field Construction Manual* is now available. This has been revised and updated with important supplemental information.

We have been working with our Atlantic Director Gord Horsman to offer the Sports Turf Management & Maintenance Course there this fall. The course is scheduled to run from October 29 to November 1 at the Moncton Coliseum, Moncton, New Brunswick. Stay tuned to the website for registration details.

Finally, a reminder that your 2012 membership invoices are now past due. If you haven't submitted your payment yet, please make this a priority – it's your association.●



**Non-Irrigated Soccer Field
Castlebury Park, Guelph, ON
Photo taken two days after mowing**

Photo: Brian Scott, Lead Hand, Turf, City of Guelph

Sports Turf Association Announces Venue for its 25th Annual Field Day

GUELPH, ON. The Soccer Centre, home to The Ontario Soccer Association, The Soccer Hall of Fame and Museum, and all of Ontario's provincial leagues, will host the Sports Turf Association's 25th Annual Field Day, September 20, 2012.

The Centre is Canada's leading competition, training, education and exposition soccer facility. It is like no other in the country featuring a 130,000 square foot field house that can accommodate three indoor soccer fields or one full size 11-a-side game. In the winter months, a 25,000 square foot bubble encompasses one third of the outdoor field creating additional training space. The Soccer Centre has two international size outdoor grass fields, one international size outdoor artificial turf field, a sports therapy clinic, restaurant and lounge, and is located on a 25 acre parcel of land that is easily accessible from Ontario's major highways.

The Field Day Committee is in the midst of applying the finishing touches to this year's program.

For topnotch turf education and the opportunity to network with colleagues and industry suppliers, save the date and plan to join us on September 20 where they VOLLEY IN VAUGHAN at The Soccer Centre, 7601 Martin Grove Road. Visit www.sportsturfassociation.com for all the details as they become available.

NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS

James Douglas
Douglas Associates Landscape Architects
Ottawa, ON

John Bautista
Dol Turf Restoration Ltd.
Bond Head, ON

Gavin Worden
Turf Care Products Canada Ltd.
Newmarket, ON

Edward McCloskey
Covertch Industries Limited
Toronto, ON

Greg Narmour
World Class Athletic Surfaces
Leland, Missouri USA

Dean McDermid
Steve Matunin
Town of Markham, ON

Scott Donald
Township of King
Nobleton, ON



Odds & Ends...

TURF TRADES EMPLOYMENT ADS

Are you advertising a position or job searching? Visit us online at www.sportsturfassociation.com and click on Turf Trades. Cost is \$75 plus HST for STA members for a 2-month listing.

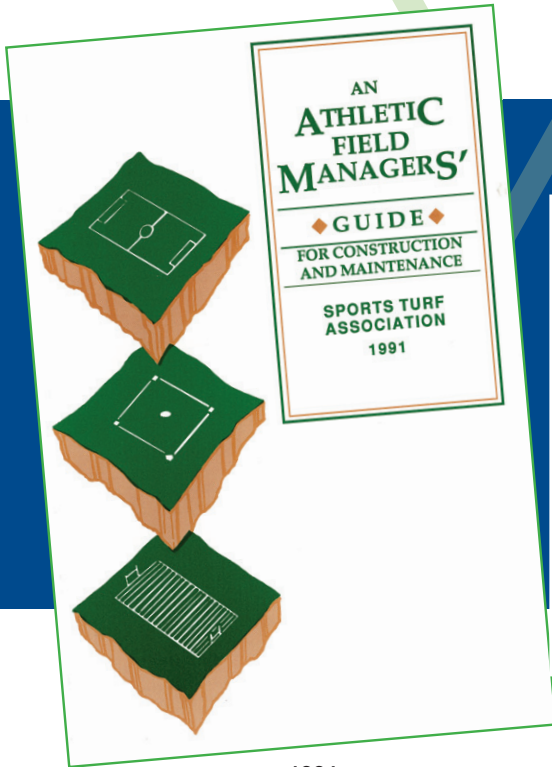
STM EDITORIAL CONTENT

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

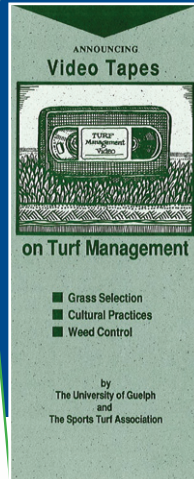
CORRECTION

The author statement was inadvertently omitted from the article What Lies Beneath BMO Field in the Spring issue of *Sports Turf Manager*. Our apologies to the writer Robert Heggie, Turf Manager, BMO Field. We regret the error.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS



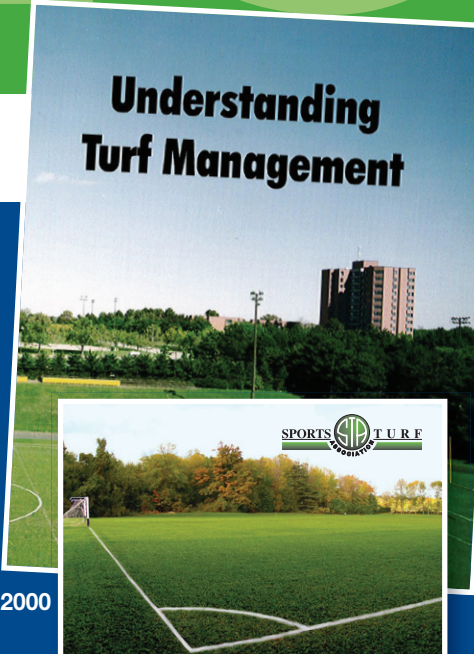
1991



1991



1997



2000



2008

SPORTS TURF MANAGER

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Controlling Turf Diseases

THE ROLE OF SILICA IN IMPROVING TURF'S NATURAL DEFENSES

Fungal diseases are a regular turf problem for golf course superintendents. And the problem is made even worse by often appearing during the summer season when the course is at its busiest. Control methods are presently few in number, basically boiling down to the use of fungicides. Studies presently underway at Guelph University's Horticultural Research Centre, however, are working on alternatives to pesticide use.

In spite of all the money and effort invested over the last few years in research into the biological control of turf diseases, few new solutions are presently available that golf course superintendents could actually use. Improved turf care and the use of new disease-resistant cultivars can help prevent the appearance of diseases, but are not always sufficient.

During the summer, heat and humidity stimulate the growth of several fungi capable of attacking turf grasses. At the same time, golf turf is undergoing intense maintenance and suffers from several forms of

severe stress. Among them, heat, drought, predatory insects, foot traffic from players, and frequent low mowings not only make turf more vulnerable to various fungal diseases, but also weaken the plant by leaving the door wide open to pathogens. It is the combination of these factors that explains why diseases are so common during the summer months.

Below: Plants were shown in University of Guelph greenhouses. Half were grown without silica while the other half received fertilizer with silica. Results were conclusive. See page 9 for more details.

2003

Sports Turf Manager

Spring 2007
VOLUME 20, NUMBER 1

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1987-2007
CELEBRATING
20 YEARS

Ontario Turf Seeds

We've done your homework for you and have a list of turf seed available from Ontario suppliers. STM provides this valuable information every 2 years.

Sports Field Assessment

An OTS Highlight Article: Assessment is an important part of any management plan, whether talking about mowing, fertilization, irrigation or sports fields. It provides information about where to bring down mowers and what needs to be done in many cases, sports field assessment is not done regularly or at all. This article will explore some of the reasons why and will explore some common oversight in identifying assessment wells.

One of the most important steps of sports field assessment is to determine what is the best way to manage the field. This is a process that is often overlooked.

One of the most important steps of sports field assessment is to determine what is the best way to manage the field. This is a process that is often overlooked.

2007

Sports Turf Manager

FOR BETTER, SAFER SPORTS TURF. SPRING 2010. VOL. 23, NO. 1

Establishing Turfgrass Without Herbicides: Musings on the Future

Dr. Ken Carey, Department of Plant Agriculture, University of Guelph

In a situation where most effective herbicides are banned for sports field managers, how does a manager establish or renovate successfully? As of yet, there are no easy answers, but this article, I'll provide some approaches you might keep in mind if you're in that boat. Some are cultural or management principles that you know and apply systems such as ideas borrowed from where these questions have been faced for years. Hopefully some may be feasible for you, at least on a trial basis, and with the assurance that many of these approaches are being pursued actively in research programs.

Weed seed bank. Most areas that have had vegetation on them, whether turf or other cover, have a bank of weed seeds that has accumulated from weeds on site, or have moved in with wind and water from off site. This is one of the main problems to turf management, we may have the luxury of time to repeatedly till the soil, allowing weed seeds to germinate and be plowed down to reduce this seed bank. Knowing what is likely to come up in your situation, first-hand observation, will allow you to anticipate the potential size and detail of the expected problem.

New rootzone material. Often, installation jobs involve bringing in new rootzone material, topsoil or sand, which has the potential to aggravate a weed problem (if the material is not weed-free), or help solve the problem, by burying it.

What Are We Replacing? There are three types of herbicides which need to be replaced in establishing turf (and for those who are already established):

Nonselective herbicides (e.g. glyphosate), which allow us to kill perennial weeds (and unwanted grass) prior to establishing.

Pre-emergent herbicides, which prevent weed seeds from germinating.

Post-emergent herbicides, which kill weeds that have already established.

Weeds in Establishing Turfgrass We've always dealt with weed pressure in newly established or renovated turf areas, so turf managers are well aware of some of the things necessary to consider:

Perennial weeds. These are the most difficult to deal with because they can survive mowing and other maintenance practices.

Pre-emergent herbicides. These are the most difficult to deal with because they can survive mowing and other maintenance practices.

Post-emergent herbicides. These are the most difficult to deal with because they can survive mowing and other maintenance practices.

2010

OTS HIGHLIGHT
Continued inside on pages 12-13.

SPRING PLANTING PREP... Every two years, the Sports Turf Association compiles a table of grass seed types available from major seed companies around the province. This year, we've also included a handy chart listing the most common characteristics of cool season turf grasses. Which will do best in shade, tolerate wear and have the lowest mowing frequency? See pages 17 and 18 for further details.



Inside Features

TURF IDENTIFICATION | 21 Dr. Eric Lyons lays out why today's turf managers need to know their turf seeding programs to determining the impacts of alternative management practices, turf ID is key!

15 JUST IN TIME FOR SUMMER. How to get a sports field ready in 70 days: exploring less expensive and time-consuming strategies.

25 SCHOOL TURF. Despite being an important part of the educational system, sports fields are often at the bottom of the funding "food chain."

*"I get a kick
out of soccer"*

— UNKNOWN



Our roots run 25 years deep.

**25TH ANNIVERSARY
BANQUET
SAVE THE DATE
October 25**



1987 – 2012

Our roots run 25 years deep
Milestone Anniversary of the
Sports Turf Association

Guelph, ON
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www.sportsturfassociation.com

Event Calendar

ASSOCIATION EVENTS ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN GREEN

July

Irrigation Association – Smart Irrigation Month
www.irrigation.org

August 23

Guelph Turfgrass Institute Summer Research Field Day & 25th Anniversary
Guelph, ON www.guelphturfgrass.ca

September 20

Sports Turf Association 25th Annual Field Day
The Ontario Soccer Centre, Vaughan, ON
519-763-9431 www.sportsturfassociation.com

October 25

Sports Turf Association 25th Anniversary Banquet
Guelph, Ontario 519-763-9431 www.sportsturfassociation.com

October 29 – November 1

Sports Turf Association Sports Turf Management & Maintenance Course
Moncton, Coliseum, Moncton, NB 519-763-9431
www.sportsturfassociation.com

School Sports Field Trials: Year One

continued from page 1

OTS HIGHLIGHT
Presented February, 2012
Guelph, Ontario.

to goal post. Plots covered both the centre of the fields (where the bulk of play takes place), and the shoulders. Three replications were done to ensure an adequate cross section of data.

Aeration Methods and Year 1 Results

In June and August, each aeration unit was taken over the field in a single pass on three plots. Control plots were randomly placed to adequately measure the differences.

In addition to the aeration units, the Veemo did its best to remove thatch from the field.

The results were gathered by two different methods, Mechanical Penetrometer, and Triax GMAX tester.

For those unfamiliar with GMAX testing, this unit is used to measure surface compaction on synthetic turf fields.



Triax GMAX tester

IN JUNE AND AUGUST, EACH AERATION UNIT WAS TAKEN OVER THE FIELD IN A SINGLE PASS ON THREE PLOTS.

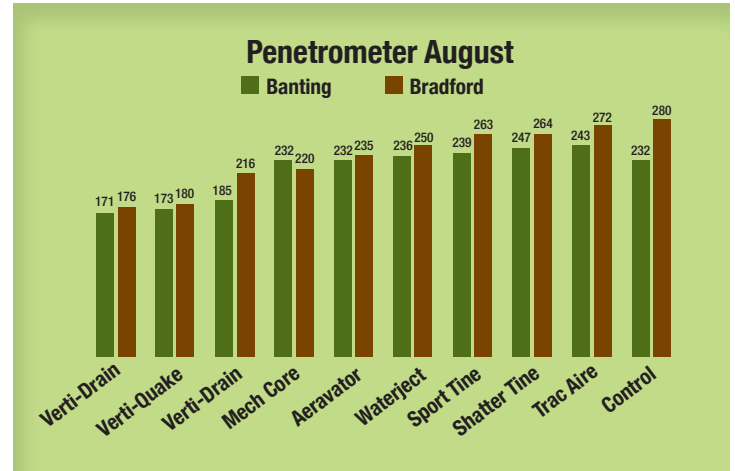


Releasing a 20 lb missile from a 24” height, the force is measured electronically, and provides a precise number showing compaction.

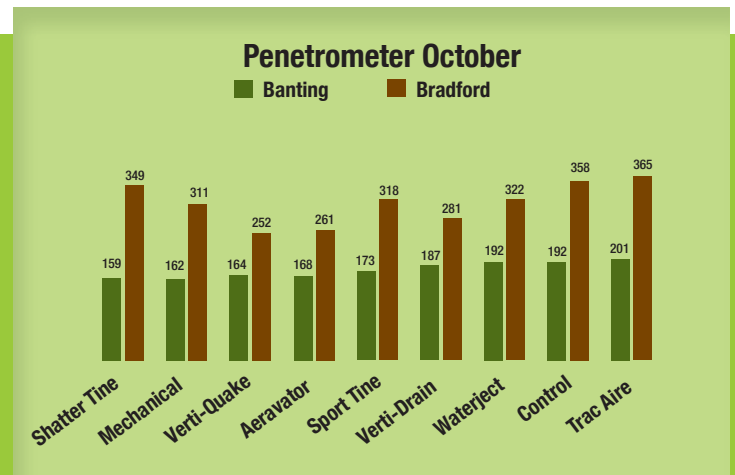
While GMAX measured compaction at the surface, the mechanical penetrometer measured soil compaction at a 4” depth.

First Year Results

- The established field with the higher organic matter content (Banting) had less compaction
- Lower moisture levels in the August measurement showed higher levels of compaction as compared to October
- Two methods of aeration consistently outperformed the rest, those being the Verti-Drain and Verti-Quake
- Differences in the two fields point to a higher organic mass percentage in the older field. •



2012 WILL BE THE SECOND AND FINAL YEAR OF THE TRIAL.



Soil Profiles

These soil profiles taken after the dethatching provide graphic evidence of just how much thatch can be removed with such a unit. It is important to note that fertilizer should be applied immediately after to facilitate turf repair and restoration.

