

SPORTS TURF MANAGER

... for safe, natural sports turf

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteers are being sought to serve as committee members on the Field Day and *Sports Turf Manager* Editorial Committees. Get involved with your association! No experience is necessary! This is a great networking and professional development opportunity. Contact Lee at the STA office for further information.



IPM Lawn Demonstration Project

YEAR 2 REPORT BY RESOURCE TECHNICIAN GEMA CHEONG

The Municipal Integrated Pest Management Lawn Demonstration Project began in spring 2003 and continued on the same areas in spring 2004 (see cover article in the Summer 2004 *Sports Turf Manager*). This project compared and demonstrated the effectiveness of conventional, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), alternative, and no-pesticide approaches to lawn maintenance.

The conventional approach uses chemicals exclusively for pest control. IPM is a process that uses all necessary techniques to suppress pests and sustain healthy landscapes. This is achieved by managing turfgrass to prevent problems and using thresholds to decide how and when to treat pests. The alternative man-

agement program uses organic pesticides, Corn Gluten Meal and Nature's Weed and Feed (beet juice extract), for pest control. Lastly, no pest control is applied under the no-pesticide management program.

The trial was established in three municipal settings (Guelph, Brantford, and London) to show the impact that the different lawn maintenance programs have on areas with slightly different microclimates, pest pressure and soil types.

This study also provided an opportunity for communication with area residents, municipal staff and turf managers regarding the different alternatives of lawn care programs.

→ page 6

Above: Overall layout of plots at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute, Guelph, Sept. 8, 2004.



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328 Victoria Road South, Guelph, ON N1H 6H8
Tel: (519) 763-9431, Fax: (519) 766-1704
E-mail: info@sportsturfassociation.com
Web: www.sportsturfassociation.com

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EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Jane Arnett-Rivers, Andrew Gaydon,
Lee Huether and Paul Turner

PUBLISHER

New Paradigm Communications
R.R. #8, Owen Sound, ON N4K 5W4
Tel. (519) 371-6818, Fax: (519) 371-5789
E-mail: joy@npc-solutions.com

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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

ANDREW GAYDON



A Spring Welcome...

It has definitely been an interesting winter weather-wise! During the early part of February, the east end of Lake Ontario froze over completely for the first time in about 20 years due to a combination of very calm water and a few extremely cold days. The ice, of course, is now long gone now but it was very interesting to view at the time.

The Landscape Ontario Congress and Ontario Turfgrass Symposium were both very active shows this year and the chatter and responses heard from the many visitors and exhibitors is that Spring 2005 is going to be very busy for our industry.

Shows and exhibitions of all types these days are no longer simply places to just display and sell ones products and services. Decades ago, a 'show' was often a local function and the surrounding businesses and farmers all arrived, usually with their families in tow, for a great day out. It was an opportunity to kick tires, ask prices and discuss what was new for the season. It was a highly social event, a chance to meet most neighbours and friends in the span of one or two days.

Now shows tend primarily to be educational forums with the exhibition being the side attraction. We are all so

hungry for information, partly because it is so important for the efficient operation of our business or responsibility but also because there is so much 'stuff' today for us to absorb, review and understand that we have to be efficient information sieves. Sales and service representatives of all types of companies and organizations have to be highly informed in ever-changing markets to ensure that relevant information can be passed on in an intelligent but understandable fashion

Secondly, these educational forums are prime stages for marketing and they provide the atmosphere to: a) know your customer; b) know what your customer likes; c) know where, when and why your customer wants a product or service; and d) know what value your customer has placed on it. It is no surprise that these concepts apply to just about everything today whether it's business, customer service or just our own family relationships.

The reason I mention this is that as the Board of Directors of your Association, we are very aware of the importance of 'knowing our customers' (the members) and that we therefore adapt our actions, plans and the future to benefit all concerned.

We are now well into a new year and invoices for membership fees will be mailed this month. Thank you for remitting your dues in a timely manner. We accept American Express, MasterCard and Visa for your convenience.

If any members would like to participate more fully in our Association, such as volunteering on the Field Day Committee or the Newsletter Group, please put your name forward. You will be most welcomed.

Finally, the Sports Turf Association website is a great member resource and Lee, our Executive Manager, and Rob, our Webmaster, do an outstanding job keeping it current and interesting. Suggestions, of course, are always encouraged.

From all of us here, to all of you out there – have a great spring and think sunshine! ♦

Rising Prices in Irrigation and Construction

SO FAR THE IMPACT IN HAS BEEN FAIRLY WELL CUSHIONED IN CANADA

Prices of a variety of raw materials have risen at an alarming rate over the last few months. If the material is Canadian, impact has been less dramatic. The fall of the US dollar and demand from around the world, particularly the Far East, is driving up prices. Analysts also blame high-energy prices, the high demand for housing and reduced capacities among many raw material suppliers.

Here in Canada we have not yet seen this dramatic increase because the Canadian dollar (compared with the US) has improved by 10-20% over the last 9 months and this has cushioned the increase. Keep in mind that even if products are made in Canada, many raw materials necessary for manufacturing are purchased from around the world, in \$US.

Rising prices for PVC, polyethylene, plastics, copper and steel are having a big impact on the construction and irrigation industries in the USA. Again, here in Canada we are seeing a less dramatic 5-15% increase. Prices of PVC, polyethylene and other types of plastics went up at the end of 2004 and are expected to continue to rise in the coming months. A resin shortage is expected to continue for the next 24 months while manufacturing catches up with demand. Volatile prices for raw materials means many producers will not quote prices more than a month out. Bear in mind that it is risky for both distributors and contractors to quote prices far in advance.

— Andrew Gaydon,
Vanden Bussche Irrigation



WELCOME STA NEW MEMBERS

- Gorden Horsman**
City of Moncton, New Brunswick
- Rick Mutuchky**
Simcoe County District School Board, Midhurst, Ontario
- Bruce Bourguignon**
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta
- John Dick**
Brock University
St. Catharines, Ontario
- Alan Simpson**
Elora, Ontario

THE GREAT CANADIAN WEATHER QUIZ...



An unprecedented ice jam on Lake Erie in 1884 caused which event?

- a) record-setting floods in southwestern Ontario farmlands
- b) worst Great Lakes shipping disaster in Canadian history
- c) unregulated hunting of thousands of stranded white-tailed deer
- d) Niagara Falls to stop flowing

Answer: d

Odds and Ends

Volunteers invited for STA Committees

Volunteers are being sought to serve as committee members on the Field Day and Sports Turf Manager Editorial Committees. Get involved with your association! No experience is necessary! Contact Lee at the STA office for further information.

COMMITTEE
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NEEDED

2005 STA Membership Fees

Thank-you to all members renewing in 2005! Invoices for membership fees will be mailed at the end of March and are due on or before May 1. Please take a moment to verify your contact information as it appears on the memo accompanying your invoice. The annual STA Membership Roster is compiled from this information.

Quotable Quotes

A little Madness in the Spring is wholesome even for the King.
— Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)

A kind word is like a spring day.
— Russian Proverb

STA Membership Plaques

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

Summer 2005 Submissions

If you have something you'd like to submit for the next issue, please forward it to the STA office by April 22, 2005.

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.

Industry Press Releases

SIMPLISTIC LINES INTRODUCES NEW FIELD PAINT SERVICE AND NU-GRO LAUNCHES THEIR PROFESSIONAL WEBSITE

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Specification Sheets containing important technical information for each product. The site is located at www.nu-groturf.com. Take a look today!

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Cover Story Continued: Year 2 of the Municipal IPM Lawn Demonstration Project

GEMA CHEONG, RESOURCE TECHNICIAN, ONTARIO PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Study Description

The study was established in three municipal settings: Guelph, Brantford and London. At Guelph, the plots were located at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute (GTI). There were 32 plots, 9 x 5.5 m each, with a total demonstration area of 1,584 m². There were four management programs and they included: conventional, IPM, alternatives, and no-pesticides, see Figure 2.

At Brantford, the plots were located at the Glenhyrst Art Gallery, near the Grand River. There were three management programs and they are as follows: conventional, IPM, and no-pesticides. There were 24 plots, 7 x 5 m each, with a total demonstration area of 840 m², Figure 3.

In London, the plots were located at Watson Park, near the Thames River. There were 2 management programs: IPM and no-pesticides, and consisted of 16 plots, 10 x 4.5 m each, with a total demonstration area of 720 m², Figure 4.

In all three municipal settings, demonstration trials were set up on established, predominantly Kentucky bluegrass turf with an existing moderate level of weed infestation.

In all three municipal settings, the demonstration trials were set up on established, predominantly Kentucky bluegrass turf with an existing moderate level of weed infestation. The plots of each demonstration trial were divided into four lawn care management programs: conventional, IPM, alternative and no-pesticide. Within each management program, the plots were subdivided into three superimposed treatments including: fertility (2.0 kg/100 m² of nitrogen), mowing height (4 cm vs 8 cm) and irrigation to demonstrate the effect that these treatments have on turf quality. The amount of irrigation was based on rainfall

Figure 2. Plot plan at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute, Guelph.

Irrigated 4 cm mowing height		Irrigated 8 cm mowing height	
Fertility	No Fertility	Fertility	No Fertility
Conventional IPM Alternative No Pesticides	Conventional IPM Alternative No Pesticides	Conventional IPM Alternative No Pesticides	Conventional IPM Alternative No Pesticides
Non-Irrigated 4 cm mowing height		Non-Irrigated 8 cm mowing height	
Fertility	No Fertility	Fertility	No Fertility
Conventional IPM Alternative No Pesticides	Conventional IPM Alternative No Pesticides	Conventional IPM Alternative No Pesticides	Conventional IPM Alternative No Pesticides

Figure 3. Plot plan at the Glenhyrst Art Gallery, Brantford.

Irrigated 4 cm mowing height		Irrigated 8 cm mowing height	
Fertility	No Fertility	Fertility	No Fertility
Conventional IPM No Pesticides	Conventional IPM No Pesticides	Conventional IPM No Pesticides	Conventional IPM No Pesticides
Non-Irrigated 4 cm mowing height		Non-Irrigated 8 cm mowing height	
Fertility	No Fertility	Fertility	No Fertility
Conventional IPM No Pesticides	Conventional IPM No Pesticides	Conventional IPM No Pesticides	Conventional IPM No Pesticides

values. However, due to the large amount of rainfall over the season and hence lack of visual turf dormancy, we were unable to demonstrate irrigation versus non-irrigation effects.

The trial started at all three locations at the beginning of June and continued until mid-November. Visual ratings and mowing were carried out weekly while the application of fertilizers, the monitoring of pests, and the application of pest control

were carried out according to each of the four management programs and their superimposed treatments. A summary of the monitoring and insect sampling techniques is provided in Table 1 (pg. 8).

Results

Guelph Turfgrass Institute (GTI)

Turf Quality: Overall turf quality was highest in conventional plots, followed by IPM, alternative and no-pesticide plots,

Figure 4. Plot plan at Watson Park, London.

Irrigated 4 cm mowing height		Irrigated 8 cm mowing height	
Fertility	No Fertility	Fertility	No Fertility
IPM No Pesticides	IPM No Pesticides	IPM No Pesticides	IPM No Pesticides
Non-Irrigated 4 cm mowing height		Non-Irrigated 8 cm mowing height	
Fertility	No Fertility	Fertility	No Fertility
IPM No Pesticides	IPM No Pesticides	IPM No Pesticides	IPM No Pesticides

respectively. In addition, the turf quality within each management program was affected by the superimposed effect of fertility and mowing. Fertility improved turf colour, density and reduced weed population. While a higher mowing height (8 cm) improved turf density and reduced weed population.

Broadleaf weed: There was no observable reduction in percent broadleaf weed cover in both conventional and IPM plots because they had very few broadleaf

weeds to start with. As to the alternative plots, a gradual reduction in weed cover has been observed throughout the season with an average reduction of 54.35%. In the no-pesticide plots, the percent weed cover was similar throughout this season, as compared to the increasing percent weed cover observed throughout last season.

Crabgrass: Crabgrass was not found in any of the plots of all four management programs. The effect of conventional, IPM

and alternative programs on crabgrass control could not be examined.

Turf Insects: Both hairy chinch bug and sod webworm were not found in any of the plots of all four management programs. One grub was found in a no-pesticide plot, which is below the IPM threshold level of grubs.

Brantford

Turf Quality: Overall turf quality was highest in the conventional plots, followed by IPM and no-pesticide plots, respectively. The application of fertility and higher mowing height also improved the colour and density of the turf. The effect of fertility was particularly prominent in the no-pesticide plots, where the visual ratings were high enough to be similar to those of IPM plots. The high visual ratings of the fertilized no-pesticide plots were mainly contributed by the low percentage of broadleaf weed cover.

Broadleaf weed: Percent reduction in broadleaf weed cover was hardly observable in conventional plots because they had very few broadleaf weeds to start




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Table 1. Summary of monitoring and insect sampling techniques.

Pest	Time of Monitoring	Sampling (5 samples/plot)	Threshold (0.1 m ²)	Treatment
European chafer <i>Rhizotrogus majalis</i> Japanese Beetle <i>Popillia japonica</i>	Early spring: grub damage check Late spring to summer: treat with Merit if significant damage from previous year in local area & large adult flights Late summer: if not treated, monitor & treat curatively if grubs present Fall: monitor to determine treatment success	Cup changer	> 2 per plug on irrigated turf; 0.5-1 per plug on non-irrigated	Merit
Hairy Chinch Bug <i>Blissus leucopterus hirtus</i>	Mid summer	Turf plug in bucket	> 20-25 per plug	Sevin
Sod Webworm Crambus sp. <i>Chrysoteuchia Topiaria</i>	Fall	Soap solution (30ml liquid soap in 8L water/m ²)	>6 per flush	Success
Broadleaf weeds	Early spring, late summer, late fall	grid (25 points per sample)	10-15% weed coverage/plot	Par 3
Crabgrass	Spring	grid (25 points per sample)	10-15% weed coverage/plot	Acclaim Super

with. In the IPM plots, reduction in broadleaf weed cover was observed. The no-pesticide plots showed a general reduction in broadleaf weed cover over the season and the percent broadleaf weed cover was much higher in the non-fertilized than the fertilized no-pesticide plots.

Crabgrass: Crabgrass was found in all three management programs but in numbers below the IPM threshold level of crabgrass, with the exception of one no-pesticide plot. Hence, all but one plot that contained crabgrass were spot-treated rather than broadcasted with herbicide.

Turf Insects: Hairy chinch bug, sod webworm and grubs were found in all three management programs but in numbers below their IPM threshold levels.

London

Turf Quality: Overall turf quality was higher in the IPM than the no-pesticide

plots. In addition, the turf quality within both management programs was affected by the superimposed effect of fertility and mowing. The application of fertility and mowing at a higher mowing height improved the colour and increased the density of turf.

Broadleaf weed: Percent broadleaf weed cover was greatly reduced over the season in the IPM plots and remained relatively the same throughout the season in the no-pesticide plots, Figure 5.

Crabgrass: Crabgrass was found in the plots of both management programs, but in numbers below the IPM threshold level for crabgrass. Hence, all plots that contained crabgrass were spot-treated rather than broadcasted with herbicide.

Turf Insects: Hairy chinch bug, sod webworm and grubs were found in both management programs but in numbers below their IPM threshold levels.

Effect of Fertility on Broadleaf Weed Cover at all Three Locations

The application of fertilizer has been observed to improve turf quality by increasing the 'greenness' and density of turf under all four management programs. In addition, the percent broadleaf weed cover was generally lower in fertilized no-pesticide plots as compared to non-fertilized no-pesticide plots, Figure 6. Such phenomenon was observed in all fertilized no-pesticide plots located at all three municipalities in both season 1 and 2.

Overall Pesticide Reduction

The breakdown of the number of pesticide applications among the four lawn care management programs in the three municipalities is illustrated in Table 2 (pg. 10). Overall, there was a 50-66.67% reduction in the number of pesticide applications in the IPM plots as compared to conventional plots in Brantford and London. In terms of the volume of herb-

icide use, there was an overall 48.2% reduction in herbicide use in IPM plots as compared to conventional plots in Brantford and the GTI, Figure 7 (pg. 10). Only herbicide reduction was taken into consideration because turf insects were present at numbers below their IPM threshold and consequently, no insecticides were sprayed in the IPM plots. This reduction was mainly a result of spot-treating broadleaf weeds and crabgrass instead of broadcasting them with herbicide.

Educational Opportunities

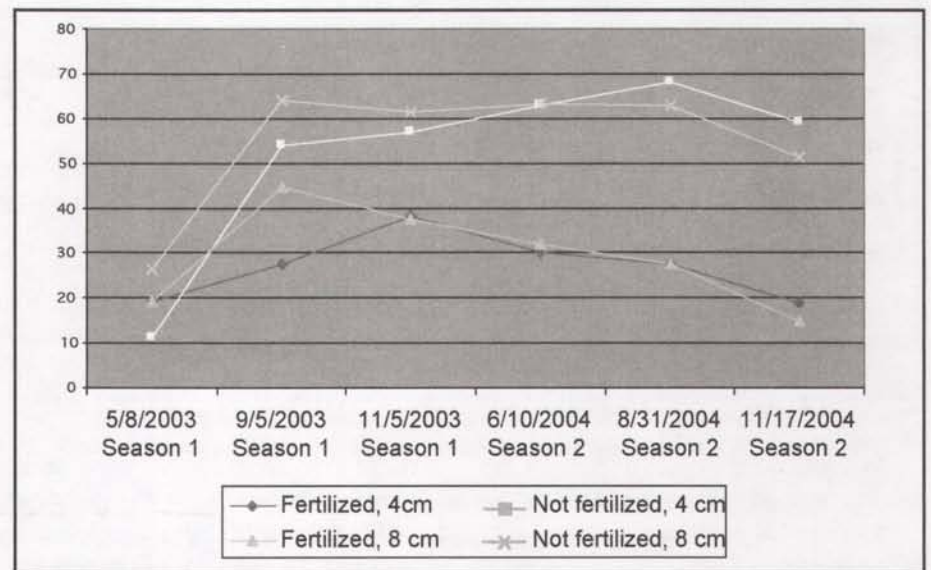
Different types of communication and educational opportunities were provided by the project throughout the season. At the GTI, the Annual GTI Research Field Day was held on August 17, 2004 and approximately 75 members of the turf industry including turf managers, researchers and personnel of lawn care companies came to visit the plots and enquire about the results of the projects. The Master Gardener Training Program was also held at the GTI and about 60 gardeners visited the plots.

At Brantford, the demonstration project received press attention through an article in the *Expositor*, a local newspaper. In addition, the City of Brantford participated in the Communities in Bloom competition and juries of the competition visited the plots at Glenhyrst Art Gallery and received a detailed description of the project. Furthermore, a sign illustrating the purpose and method of the project was created and it provided information of the project to members of the public that pass by the park of the Glenhyrst Art Gallery.

Figure 5. Difference between control (left) and 4 cm fertilized IPM plot (right). London, November 3, 2004.



Figure 6. Average percent broadleaf weed cover of no-pesticide plots at the GTI in season 1 and 2.



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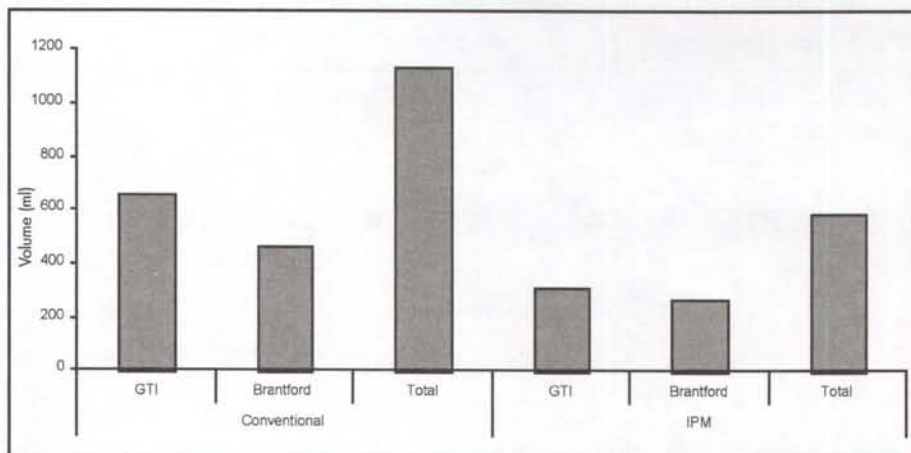


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Table 2. The total number of pesticide applications among the four lawn care maintenance programs.

Location	Treatments	Par III	Dimension	Acclaim	Sevin	Merit	Nature's Weed & Feed	Corn Gluten Meal	Total
GTI	Conventional	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	6
	IPM	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Alternative	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	5
	No Pesticide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brantford	Conventional	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	6
	IPM	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
	No Pesticide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
London	IPM	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
	No Pesticide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Figure 7. Comparison of the volume of herbicide use in the conventional and IPM plots at Brantford and the GTI.



At London, questions regarding the project were sometimes produced by the park users of Watson Park.

Conclusions

Turf quality was highest in conventional followed by IPM, alternative and no pesticide programs. Despite the 50-66.67% reduction in the number of pesticide use or the 48.20% reduction in the volume of herbicide use in IPM plots as compared to conventional plots, the quality of the turf in IPM plots was only reduced slightly. In addition, mowing at a higher height (8 cm) improved the density of turf, while the application of fertilizer improved turf colour and density and reduced broadleaf weed cover in the no-pesticide plots. The manifestation of turfgrass insects was not an issue in any

of the three municipalities. They were all present in numbers below the threshold for IPM pest control. Crabgrass infestation was also not a problem. It was only found at Brantford and London in numbers below its IPM threshold level, with the exception of one plot. As for broadleaf weed cover, a couple of trends were observed. At the GTI, the percent of broadleaf weed cover of no-pesticide plots was similar throughout season 2, as opposed to its gradual increase throughout season 1. Broadleaf weed cover of the alternative plots at the GTI reduced gradually throughout season 2, while no trend was observed in season 1. At Brantford, broadleaf weed cover of both IPM and no-pesticide plots was observed to reduce throughout the season. At London, broadleaf weed cover was much

reduced in the IPM plots and remained relatively similar throughout the season in the no-pesticide plots.

In season 3, the impact of IPM, alternative and no pesticide programs on turf quality is expected to increase. We hope to examine if pest infestation and the effectiveness of pest control will change, and monitor the further development of the trends of broadleaf weed cover. The effect of irrigation on turf quality can also be examined if there is less rain in season 3. In addition, the effectiveness of Nature's Weed and Feed can be better examined if the application begins earlier in the season. In terms of educational opportunities, we hope to have open houses in all three municipalities in order to convey the purpose and results of the project to more members of the general public.

For further information regarding this project, please visit the project website at www.gti.uoguelph.ca/OPA. It contains general information, photos, presentation slides and final reports of the project

Acknowledgements

This project was funded by the Ontario Pesticides Advisory Committee and coordinated by the Guelph Turfgrass Institute. I would like to acknowledge the following people: Pam Charbonneau, OMAF; Doug Mewett, OPAC; Erica Gunn, GTI; Bruce McGauley, City of London; Dennis Wale, City of Brantford; Norm McCollum, GTI; Mark Meloun, City of Brantford; and Mark Donahue, City of London. ♦

STA Member Profile

Dave Ellis • Manager of Parks Maintenance • City of Regina

What is your role with the City?

As Manager of Parks Maintenance, I am responsible for the lifecycle and maintenance of Parks and Open Space, managing two cemeteries and the maintenance of athletic fields in the City of Regina.

What kind of team do you work with?

Our team consists of three Parks District Foremen, one Cemeteries Foreman and a Foreman of Parks Services, Al Sandalack. Al is responsible for athletic fields; playgrounds; herbicide application, ice rinks and city-owned vacant land maintenance. We have 21 permanent em-

ployees and approximately 120 employees who work seasonally.

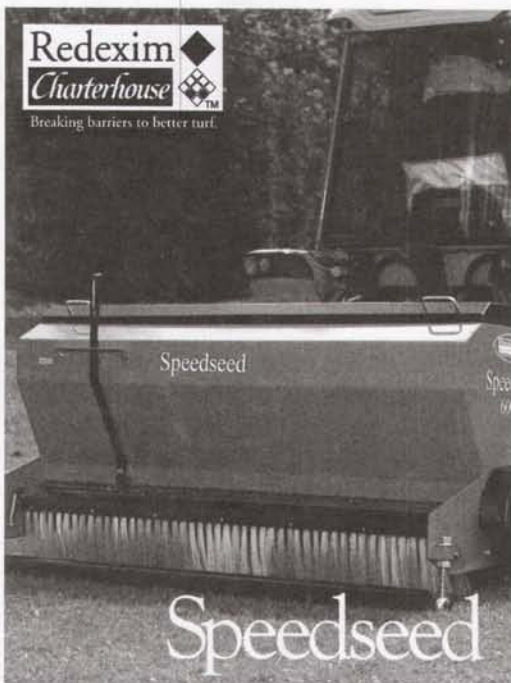
What are you and your team responsible for?

We manage the lifecycle and maintenance of 285 parks covering about 3,000 acres of parks and open space. We have 43 athletic fields; a city pathway network; 68 outdoor skating rinks including two on residential lakes; 147 playgrounds; a herbicide application program; a spring boulevard cleaning program; and two active cemeteries with approximately 600 interments per year. We manage a diversity

of open space from dry land turf to our Class-A parks with computer-controlled central irrigation. We manage native prairie grassland and wetland parks.

What is your biggest challenge?

This is a diverse job requiring expertise in everything from cemetery management to natural area care and the high-end maintenance of athletic fields. The trend in our seasonal work force is towards a higher turn-over rate. We deal with balancing public and user group expectations with available resources. Of course, pesticide use has been a sensitive



The Speedseed is ideal for sportsgrounds where economy and random seed disbursements are important. The Speedseed overseeding machines offer the same accurate means to produce thousands of holes, deliver the seed and brush in, all with a single machine.

However, there is no sand hopper with this model. The SS6000H is the same as the SS6000, but with its own fully floating, hydraulically operated rotary brush. Ideal when overseeding after you have top dressed the area first. The rotary brush will brush-in the sand and the seed, for the perfect finish.

After the seed is delivered, the built-in brush and roller finish the job.

Length:	30"
Width:	64"
Working width:	58"
Minimum tractor size:	17 hp
Seed hopper capacity:	2.5 cu ft
No. of holes:	60 per sq ft

Feature

Fast random disbursement of seed
Economic
Rear mounted roller and dry brush
Large seed hopper

Benefit

No drill lines
Saves time and money
Surface is left ready for play
Less time filling

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issue here for the past few years. We are somewhat isolated from horticulture schools and suppliers of horticultural materials and equipment.

What is the most satisfying part, what makes the job worthwhile for you?

Regina is a great community. The public places a very high value on our park system and each year in our City Public Satisfaction Survey, Parks and Open Space has ranked number one in customer satisfaction of all City services. It is very evident here that Parks and Open Space contributes to the high quality of life we enjoy in Regina.

What is the biggest misconception about your job?

This job, and parks maintenance work in general, is sometimes seen as such a general job that no special skills or abilities are needed and that maintaining the landscape is no more difficult than what a homeowner does in the yard. However, the scale of the work and an understanding of use patterns, public safety, having technical expertise, and general management skills all combine to make this a unique and fulfilling career. I think some in our industry view parks management as a horticulture job. I tend to believe that we are in the recreation industry as opposed to the horticulture industry. We use horticulture knowledge, skills and resources to fulfill our role in the recreation industry.

What is your educational/employment background?

I have a B.Sc. in Agriculture from the University of Alberta where I specialized

in horticulture and weed control. The courses I took in Range Management have proven beneficial in managing native parkland and natural areas. I have held a pesticide applicator license for more than 20 years. I have nearly completed a certificate program from the University of Calgary in Environmental Management and have completed several short courses over the years in areas such as IPM and arboriculture. I have worked in City Parks Management for 20 years, the past three have been in the City of Regina.

Tell us about your family.

This year, my wife Wendy and I will celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary. We have four children and one son-in-law. Our youngest son and daughter are in high school.

What do you enjoy doing outside of the workplace? Hobbies, favourite past times?

I have always enjoyed our native flora and enjoy hiking and camping and learning about native flowering plants. I have been active in the Boy Scout organization for many years in varying capacities. I am a certified SCUBA Instructor and was a very active SCUBA diver prior to moving to Regina. I haven't done much diving in Regina, but my golf game is getting a little better!

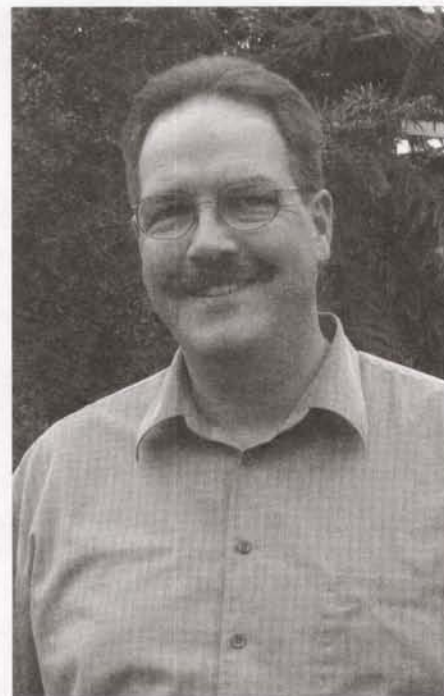
What direction(s) would you like to see the industry, as a whole, move towards?

I think our industry provides so much to society that is mostly unnoticed and we should be more active in promoting the benefits. Our industry contributes to

enhancing property values; the cooling effects of landscape in urban environment; oxygen production; carbon dioxide absorption; traffic calming; space that encourages a more active lifestyle; and the general enhancement to quality of life provided by urban landscapes. This is something we should be proud of and promote.

What do you consider to be the biggest benefit of being a member of the STA?

It is important to keep up with trends, best practices, research, new ideas and products. I have found the most effective way to do this is through networking within the industry. Membership in the STA has provided an excellent forum for this kind of networking. ♦



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STA Facility Profile

City of Regina

Optimist Ball Park



Name, location of facility.

The City of Regina has 43 athletic fields city-wide including seven sport field complexes that are used for higher level competition. These include Mt. Pleasant Sport Park, Optimist Park and the Rugby Centre which are venues for the 2005 Jeux du Canada Games hosted by Regina this summer.

General facility information.

Mt. Pleasant (6 fields), Rugby (4), Lakeridge (4), Optimist (2), Realtors (2), Rambler (12), Douglas (7), are all sport complex sites. All others are situated as single fields within a park.

What types of sports fields are on site?

Soccer, fastball, baseball, football and rugby. Ultimate Frisbee, field hockey and

lacrosse are also played on these sites.

How many employees are involved with turf care?

In addition to two fulltime employees, six seasonal staff maintain 43 fields. Their duties include mowing, aerating, fertilizing, topdressing, overseeding, turf repair and restoration, line painting, litter collection, bleacher and net moving, and field inspection.

How many acres of turf are maintained? How many acres of sports turf?

Our athletic field staff maintains 117 acres including 96 acres of actual play area. The other area is apron around some of the fields.

What percentage of this acreage is irrigated?

Ninety-nine percent of the 117 acres are irrigated. The irrigation is controlled by our computerized central control system.

What is the primary type of turfgrass? Name of varieties.

Our specification for grass seed has varied over the past years and sod suppliers have changed, but the majority of our turf is

Kentucky Blue. Our current seed specification includes 50% Crest Kentucky Blue; 20% Jasper Creeping Red Fescue; 15% Victory Chewing Fescue; 10% Sparton Hard Fescue; and 5% Fiesta III Perennial Ryegrass. We do allow alternatives on some of the varieties.

Is yearly overseeding part of your sports turf maintenance program?

We have two cycles of overseeding and topdressing per year. However, fall play schedules and early winter sometimes prevent the fall program.

How many times do you fertilize?

Our current fertilizer is a polymer-sulfur coated 40-0-0. We apply two pounds per 1000 square feet, three times per year. We usually apply at beginning of May, late June, and in mid August.

Do you aerate? Topdress?

Our heavy clay soils mean we must constantly work to prevent compaction, so our program is constant. We aerate all fields three to four times per year with two to three slicings to help thin out and generate new growth. We topdress up to two times per year.

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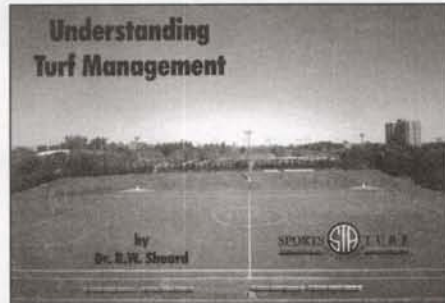
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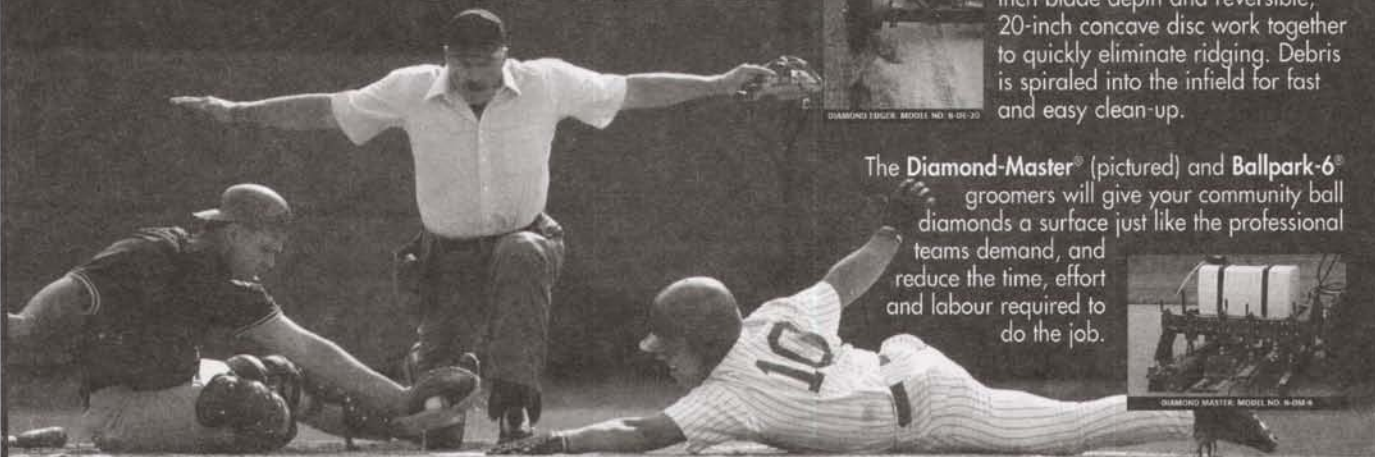
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Rambler Park

Has your municipality banned the use of pesticides?

No, but reductions are being implemented. We have not needed to use herbicides on sports fields for several years with the exception of some glyphosate prior to reseeding or sodding an area.

Are community user groups involved or have they been involved in the construction/maintenance of facilities? In what manner?

Community sport user groups have varied levels of involvement in the ongoing maintenance of some ball diamonds, but all athletic fields are maintained by City of Regina staff. A number of these groups have contributed to many of the facilities which allows them priority use in some cases. Annual meetings are conducted with the Athletic Field Advisory Committee which is comprised of sport-user groups to discuss any issues, special events and identify potential future capital projects as they relate to athletic facilities. Ongoing communication between City

program and maintenance staff and user groups allows maintenance concerns to be addressed as required. Typically any improvements requested by the user group above the standards set for the level of the facility become the cost (both capital and operating) of the user group.

How many hr/yr are fields permitted? Who permits them? Are the fields ever closed during the season to give them a rest? How much input do you have in the amount and timing of use?

The City of Regina's Central Scheduling Office is responsible for providing all permits for sport and recreation facilities. In 2004, athletic fields, parks and ball diamonds were permitted for 70,819 hours of use from May 1 to October 31. Better quality sport fields are permitted based on 18-20 hours/week usage per field. Fields are closed as required or as time permits for extra maintenance. Groups are contacted or are asked to call the athletic field supervisor to get current information on field status or "rain outs." ♦

THE GREAT CANADIAN WEATHER QUIZ...



What fell from the sky during the freakiest shower in Belleville, Ontario?

- a) toads picked up by a whirling funnel of vapour
- b) snow blizzard in July
- c) three days of unrelenting rain
- d) fist-sized hail

Answer: a

Calendar of Events

March 23 & 24

*Ontario Parks Association
49th Annual Educational Seminar &
Explorations Trade Show*
Hamilton, ON
Information: (905) 864-6182
www.opassoc.on.ca

May 1-5

*Ontario Recreation Facilities
Association 50th Annual Professional
Development Program*
Guelph, ON
Information: (416) 426-7062
www.orfa.com

July 19-22

*Ontario Parks Association
Annual General Meeting*
Brampton, ON
Information: Steve Preston, City of
Brampton (905) 874-2918
www.city.brampton.on.ca

January 30 – February 24, 2006

*Guelph Turfgrass Institute
Turf Managers' Short Course*
Guelph, ON
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Contact the STA if you have an event you'd like to advertise in the next issue of the *Sports Turf Manager*.



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Kentucky Blue	Award Baron Bluemoon Everglade Goldrush Liberator Minnfine	NuGlade Princeton105 Rambo Rugby II Shamrock Total Eclipse Tsunami	Barrister Limousine Marquis Quantum Leap Shamrock	Award Beyond Caliber Chicago II Liberator NuBlue NuDestiny NuGlade Rambo	Alpine America Blue Velvet Crest Explorer	Langara Limousine Mercury Moon Shadow Quantum Leap Touchdown	Abbey Alene Apollo Arcadia Awesome Blacksburg Blacksburg II Blackstone Blue Sapphire Brilliant Cabernet Champagne Denim	Midnight Midnight II Midnight Star Moonlight North Star Perfection Princeton 105 Raven Rita Rugby II Serene Unique Voyager	Award Bluechip Goldrush Jewel Liberator Minnfine NuBlue NuGlade Odyssey Rambo Shamrock Total Eclipse		
Ryegrass	Accent Barclay (creeping) Elf Goalkeeper		Cutter Express Fiesta III	ASAP Evolution Extreme Top Gun	Annual Blazer 4 Cutter Edge Fiesta III	Futura 3000 Perennial #1 Quebec Transist	Divine Elfk Esquire Grand Slam	Inspire Majesty Pearl II Stellar	Academy Accent Archer Barclay Elf	Goalkeeper Passport Pizzazz Top Hat	
Fescue: Blue					Azay Blue Fescue		Big Horn Little Big Horn				
Fescue: Creeping Red	Aruba		Boreal Jasper	Aruba Fenway	#1 Creeping Red Fescue Boreal Jasper II Sealink		Boreal Florentine Laurel Navigator	Rose Seabreeze GT Shademaster II	Aberdeen Aruba	Franklin Florentine	
Fescue: Chewings	Bridgeport Sandpiper		Bridgeport Silhouette	Jamestown II Southport	Victory Windward		Banner III Cascade Lomgfellow II Sandpiper	Shadow II Tiffany Wrigley	Bridgeport K-2	Sandpiper Wilma	
Fescue: Hard	Heron		Serra	Ecostar Rescue 911	Spartan		Aurora Gold Discovery Osprey	Ridu Saxson Serra	Brigade Heron		
Fescue: Sheeps	Azure MX86		Barok	MX86AE	Azay		MX86		Azure MX86		
Fescue: Tall	Arid III Barlexas Pedestal		Barlexas Vegas	Arid III Jaguar II	#1 Tall Fescue Crossfire Team Jr.		Dawson Marksman Olympic Gold	Shenandoah II Wildfire Wolfpack	Arid III Colorado Gold Millennium	Monarch Pedestal	
Bentgrass: Colonial	Highland		Highland	Highland	Exeter Highland		Alister Highland		Highland		
Bentgrass: Creeping	18th Green Bengal L-93 Penn G-6 Penncross	Penneagle Pennlinks Pennway Providence Seaside II	L-93 Penn A-4 Penncross Penneagle Pennlinks Trueline	Dominant Plus L-93 Penn A-4 Penn G-6 Penn Trio Coated Penncross	Pennncross Penneagle Pennlinks Providence T-1	Aggressor Cato Mariner Penn-4 Penn G-1 Penn G-2	Penn G-6 Pennncross Penneagle Pennlinks Pennway Seaside II	Penn A-1 Penneagle Penn A-2 Penn A-4 Penn G-2 Penncross	18th Green A-4 Bengal G-6 L-93 Penncross	Penneagle Pennlinks Pennway Providence SR1020	
Bentgrass: Velvet					Vesper		Greenwich				
Poa trivialis	Winterstar		Cyprus	Laser Sabre	Colt		Sabre II Winterplay		Sunup Winterstar		
Poa supina			Supranova				Supranova				
Poa compressa	Canada Blue		Canada Blue	Canada Blue Reubens	Canada Blue		Canada Blue Reubens		Canada Blue		
Weeping alkali	Fults		Fults Salty	Fults			Fults Salty		Fults Salty		

Turf Seeding Rates

The following are seeding rates per 100 m² for specific species of grass seeds: 1) Creeping Bentgrass, 0.5-1.0 kg; 2) Kentucky Bluegrass, 1.0-2.0 kg; 3) Perennial Ryegrass, 2.0-4.0 kg; 4) Fine Fescue, 1.0-3.0 kg; and 5) Tall Fescue, 2.0-3.0 kg.
(Source: OMAFRA Turfgrass Management Recommendations, 2000)



Above: Damage caused by cutting too close to pond.

Cutting Slopes and Around Waterways

Safe Operating Procedures

JANE ARNETT-RIVERS, SUPERVISOR SPORTS & TURF, TOWN OF OAKVILLE

So yet again it's time to train new staff and refresh the rest of us. Training all staff on all equipment can be daunting for both trainer and trainee. One step of starting or operating a piece of equipment missed can compromise all other safety precautions taken. It is imperative that you have a written plan for training and orienting workers. In order to train 60 summer staff in a short period of time, Oakville has devised a system which has greatly improved past practices. By designing a *Safe Operating Procedure* for every piece of equipment, the message is loud and consistent for every employee. Once reviewed, the trainer and trainee sign off that the information is acknowledged and understood. The safety of the operator and the corporation's investment in the equipment is protected. The following is an example of a *Safe Operating Procedure*.

Standard Operating Procedure. User Department: Public Works, Parks & Facilities.

WARNING!

This Safetygram is designed as a tool to be used in conjunction with the operator's manual in the safe operation of **Cutting Slopes and Around Waterways**. Further site training and experience are necessary for competent operation.

SAFE PRACTICES

- **DO NOT USE** equipment unless trained.
- If equipment is damaged or malfunctions, **DO NOT USE**. Report to your supervisor immediately.
- **DO NOT REMOVE** or circumvent any safety devices on the equipment.
- **ALWAYS WEAR** prescribed personal protective equipment.
- **FAMILIARIZE** yourself with the operating manual before use.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- Safety CSA boots
- Eye protection
- Ear protection
- Gloves
- Dusk mask if desired
- Seat belt

SITE CHECK OF THE AREA TO BE CUT

When entering a park that has pond, waterway, or steep slope, always get off the mower and check the area before cutting. If you have any questions, ask your crew leader or leadhand. Never take an unnecessary risk or make a wrong guess.

OPERATING PROCEDURE

PONDS AND WATERWAYS

- When cutting around a pond or waterway, keep the drive and steering wheels back three feet from the crest of the bank.
- Drive slowly and don't make sudden changes in direction.
- Stay alert and watch for holes and debris.
- When cutting around deep water, take seat belt off.
- If you ever get stuck or in a dangerous position set the parking brake, turn off the machine and call a leadhand for assistance.

OPERATING PROCEDURE

DITCHES AND SLOPES

- When mowing a steep slope, always mow up and down the slope – never across. A good rule of thumb is if you can't back up the hill, don't cut it. Do not spin the tires trying to get up a slope. This will only damage the turf.
- Drive slowly and don't make sudden changes in direction.
- Stay alert and watch for holes and debris.
- Always wear a seatbelt.
- If you ever get stuck or in a dangerous position, set the parking brake, turn off the machine and call a leadhand for assistance.



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