



TURFAX™

of the

International Sports Turf Institute, Inc.



Volume II Number 3

May- June 1994

TURFAX™ — The International Newsletter about Current Developments in Turfgrass

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The goal of this 6 issue per year newsletter is to provide international turf specialists with a network for current information about turf. It is FAXed to all Institute Affiliates that use the ISTI technical assistance services on an annual basis. FAXing is more costly, but ensures quick delivery to those outside the United States.

For non-affiliates, a TURFAX™ subscription is available by annual payment of U.S. \$60.00. Payment may be made by sending a check to the address below. Foreign orders please send a check or money order on a U.S. bank.

Our perennial turfgrass species evolved over 50 million years. They have been cultured by humans to provide an enhanced environment and quality-of-life for more than 10 centuries.

The Amazing Grass Plant:

The grasses (*Poaceae*) are the most ubiquitous of the higher plant groups found on this earth. With an estimated 600 genera and 7,500 species, the *Poaceae* ranks third in number of genera among families of flowering plants. In respect to completeness of representation in all regions of the world and to percentage of the total world's vegetation, grasses surpass all other genera. Grasses are one of the first permanent vegetations to reappear after disasters, such as volcanic activity, extended droughts, floods, fires, explosions, abandoned urban ghettos, and battlefields. Without the forgiveness of the grasses, many ill-advised construction excavations and agricultural activities would have had far more disastrous effects on our vital natural resource, the earth's surface soil mantle, on which we live.

To humans, grasses are the most important of all plants. The cereal grains and corn, all members of the grass family, serve as food for humans and animals. A host of grazing ruminant animals use grasses as their major food source as forage, pasture, and prepared feeds. Bamboo is a major building material. Grasses of all types represent a large source of biomass for production of methanol, an energy source.

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