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“Monthly Field Tip”

Water Conservation

Evapotranspiration (ET) is the combined water loss from a plant community as a result of evaporation from the soil and transpiration from plant surfaces. Its impact on the efficiency of water use can be moderated through diligent management practices.

The following lists some suggestions for water conservation in turf management:

1. Do not stimulate rapid shoot growth during periods of high water demand. This will accelerate ET and increase water use. Avoid nitrogen applications when dry, hot conditions are anticipated. It is better to concentrate nitrogen usage during the spring and fall.
2. Stimulate root growth. Increase mowing height, reduce nitrogen fertility, ensure good soil aeration,

Continued on next page.....



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reduce thatch, and control root-feeding insects and root-infecting diseases. A strong, deep root system will maximize water availability, and will delay drought stress during dry periods.

3. Reduce root-inhibiting conditions in the soil profile. Promptly treat soil acidity, toxic ion concentrations, anaerobic layers, and excess compaction. Most such conditions are best corrected during installation, but they can also be addressed by deep coring, by adding soluble lime and nutrients, and by selecting acid-tolerant turfgrasses.
4. Develop irrigation practices based on the concept of deficit water management. By applying less water than would be lost through ET under well-watered conditions, turf can be maintained under managed drought stress. This stimulates deep rooting and conserves water. ▲

This material was excerpted with permission from Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association Newsletter, April 1997. It originally appeared in TurfGrass TRENDS, October 1996.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NEW JERSEY RECREATION & PARKS ASSOCIATION TRADE SHOW & CONVENTION

March 16-19, 2003 at Bally's Park Place Hotel & Tower, Atlantic City, NJ
Contact Bill Foelsch or Terry Dunwiddie at the NJRPA Office at 732-568-1270 or fax 732-568-1274 (See front page)

SPORTS FIELD MANAGERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY SPRING FIELD DAY

In cooperation with NJRPA

April 10, 2003 at Wall Twp., NJ Indoor & outdoor education and demonstrations with vendor Trade Show. Fliers have been sent to members.

SFMANJ & NJRPA

Spring Athletic Field Day

Held at Wall Township

April 10th 8am to 2:30 pm

**COST: \$35 members & \$45 non-member
\$5 late charge at the door**

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