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SHORT CUTS

THOSE DARN LAWYERS... may be standing in the way of research to determine athletic field hardness, says **Dr. Bob Carrow** of the University of Georgia. Carrow told attendees at the Sixth International Turfgrass Research Conference that research is stalled because no one wants to stick their necks out by saying a field is safe, then be called into court as an "expert witness" if and when an athlete is injured.

LOOKING FOR ALTERNATIVES... in available grass species was the goal of a recent study at Ohio State University. The North Central Regional Turfgrass Research Group—led by **Jill Taylor, Jim Simmons** and **Karl Danneberger**—initiated a study and evaluated the use of alternative grass species for use in the Midwest. The group believes some of the species would do well in low maintenance areas. Sixteen species were evaluated on a scale of 1 to 9, with 9 being the best score. Best color (all readings are at a height of 2 inches) was recorded by Alta tall fescue, 6.8. Highest density grass was Colt rough bluegrass, 7.5; best in the quality category was again Alta tall fescue, 6.3. Alta recorded the best total score at the two-inch height, with 19.4 out of a total 27 points.

MORE RESEARCH... Other recent OSU experiments included an attempt at tall fescue control in Kentucky bluegrass turf beyond the usual spot treatments. **Drs. John Street, Bill Pound** and **Jim Simmons** applied two formulations of Lesco TFC to an established tall fescue stand on April 25 and June 1. Applications of 2 oz. and 4 oz. of active ingredient were made to an established Kentucky bluegrass cultivar on May 1. In general, the the 2 oz. rate provided 90 percent control, and the 2 oz. + 2 oz. and 4 oz. rates provide control at 95 percent. There was no difference in percent control between the two TFC formulations. Kill of tall fescue required six to eight weeks. Discoloration of tall fescue began 10 days after treatment.

TURF FOR PEACE... "Today, the more civilized and peaceful a country is, the more [formal] turf is used," says **Dr. Fumio Kitamura**, organizing committee chairman of the Sixth International Turfgrass Research Conference. He adds, "When our lives become more comfortable, the importance of grass increases as a place where we can get close to it, enjoy it, play and relax on it. Turf is now a symbol of civilization, peace and affluence."