

Grab Bag

Solving turf stress a global concern

Maintaining turfgrass under excessive wear conditions was addressed during the International Turfgrass Research Conference in Sydney, Australia. Dr. Richard Hull, University of Rhode Island, reports that managers of turfed race tracks, athletic fields and some high-use golf courses must confront these problems. Rooting and media modifications, drainage and use of geotextiles and other mesh materials were all discussed. Hull reports that mesh materials appear to have some potential for stabilization, but much more R&D is needed.

"This problem is receiving much attention from the international turf community where the intensity and duration of sports turf use is such that maintaining high quality turf standards is all but impossible," says Hull.

Getting Taiwan fields up to speed

An international visitor to the recent Sports Turf Managers Association trade show meeting was ex-Olympian Chi Cheng (1960, women's 400 meters, Bronze), president of Swan Sports Co., Ltd. Cheng, who in 1970 held five world records in track and field, was at the show in Orlando to load up on information she says managers back home are in great need of.



Project wins for uniqueness

Winner of the California Landscape Contractors Association "Special Effects" award for 1997 is this renovation project by Creative Environments of Occidental, Calif. The residential project included removal of an existing pond, waterfall and patio, and the addition of a new Koi pond and tiered waterfall. Other additions include a new flagstone patio, a hand-made one piece, curved, wood bench, lighting, plants and irrigation. Designer was Cheryl Rauch.

Golf continues to grow

"It's expensive to build a golf course and to operate one, so it's only logical that it costs money to play. But people enjoy the game and are willing to pay for the privilege of golfing. As long as the economy is good and people have sufficient income for leisure time activities, things should continue to progress."

DAVID S. DOWNING II, CGCS, DIRECTOR OF GOLF COURSE OPERATIONS FOR WILD WING PLANTATION IN MYRTLE BEACH, SC.

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