

Penneagle crowds out bluegrasses on Butler National's fairways



Triplex fairway mowing at The Butler National Golf Club, Oak Brook, IL

When Oscar Miles, CGCS, of The Butler National Golf Club, introduced Penneagle creeping bentgrass into his *Poa annua* infested A-20 bluegrass fairways in 1980, he took a dynamic step toward the beautiful fairways praised by the pros during the Western Open.

Utilizing a prescribed program of aggressive, deep core aeration, drop seeding and verticutting, Penneagle was expected to aggressively compete with the bluegrasses. With triplex mowing and clipping removal, the unwanted grasses are yielding to Penneagle.

Oscar feels that his fairways are now 70-90% Penneagle.

With Butler National's reputation at stake, Oscar Miles couldn't chance anything less than Penneagle for his "immaculate" fairways.

Warren Bidwell is available to talk to your superintendents' group about Butler National Golf Course and the "Penn Pals," Penncross, Penneagle and Pennway Blend, on your golf course. Call or write TEE-2-GREEN Corp. for details.

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LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

Formerly WEEDS TREES & TURF



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More and more, athletic turf managers must know how hard their fields are. In this issue, we examine how to accurately measure the safety of fields. This test, though technical, may help avoid a lawsuit.

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A Landscape Management survey paints a bleak picture for athletic field managers. But some innovative managers are changing the scene.

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Use of aquatic herbicides is just one of five means of controlling water weeds. But three cooperative extension agents in Florida think it offers advantages the others don't.

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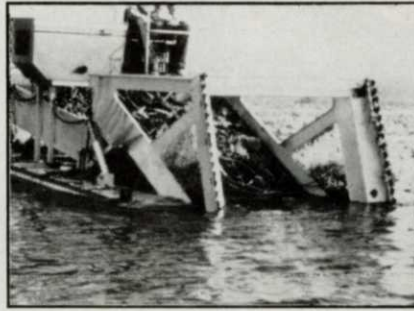
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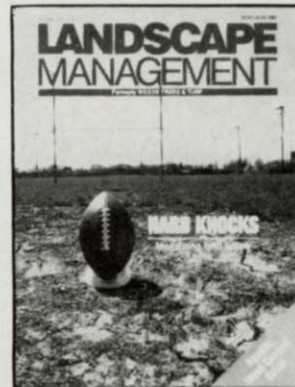
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On the cover: It's not easy to care for high-use athletic fields, as this actual football/soccer field attests.

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JOHN DEERE

It's easy to spot reel quality

Tear off a corner of this page. Now, use a scissors to cut off the other corner. Notice a difference? It's the same difference you'll spot when comparing turf cut by reel versus rotary mowers.

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PGR market belies product name

■ Growth in the Plant Growth Regulator (PGR) market recently has been anything but regulated, or slow.

PGRs work by inhibiting seed head development on plants while still encouraging leaf development and growth, a scenario that often keeps turf green well into the hot summer months.

Products such as PBI/Gordon's Embark and Monsanto's Limit have been helping to reduce mowing frequency and cost in many areas of the green industry, especially rights-of-way. "Application of Embark," says PBI/Gordon product manager Earl Tracy, "prevents the need to mow for six to eight weeks."

And with costs in every area of turf care continuing to rise, a money saver is almost certain to become popular.

Survey says landscaping growth will continue

■ The 12th annual economic survey by the National Landscaping Association indicates that a majority of respondents believe the landscaping industry will continue to grow, most notably in residential landscaping.

For 1986, 70 percent of respondents reported increased sales in residential landscaping; residential renovation was up 61 percent; 65 percent reported increases in new commercial landscaping; just 33 percent reported increases in commercial renovation (53 percent showed no change).

When asked to forecast for 1987, 60 percent anticipated increases in new residential, 45 percent in new commercial.

On the whole, respondents' business increased an average of 21.7 percent from 1985 to 1986, well above the 16.8 percent forecasted at the beginning of 1986. Respondents are predicting an increase of 16.5 percent from 1986 to 1987.

California a model for other state regulators?

■ It seems that California's enactment of Proposition 65 "toxics initiative" is setting off a string of potential regulations in at least 15 other states nationwide.

Carl Pope, co-author of the proposition and a Sierra Club member, says that he and Environmental Defense Fund leader David Roe are penning a "generic" model of Prop. 65 for use by other states.

"This is not something that is being pushed out of California," Pope notes. "We are getting questions from everywhere." Pope claims he has received inquiries from a number of states concerning pesticide regulation. Washington, D.C. based National Campaign Against Toxic Hazards is working to set up legislation campaigns in 15 states.

Prop. 65 and proposed legislation in other states are similar. But "these new ones will go further," says Toxic Hazards' John O'Conner.

LM Editorial Staff



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OFFICES

ATLANTA
455 East Paces
Ferry Road Suite 324
Atlanta, GA 30305
(404) 233-1817

CLEVELAND
7500 Old Oak Boulevard
Cleveland, OH 44130
Editorial: (216) 243-8100

CHICAGO
111 East Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60601
(312) 938-2344

SEATTLE
1333 N.W. Norcross
Seattle, WA 98177
(206) 363-2864

DULUTH
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(218) 723-9200

MARKETING REPRESENTATIVES

Dick Gore
Atlanta (404) 233-1817
Ron Kempner
Atlanta (404) 233-1817
Jon Miducki
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ATHLETIC TURF

Toronto decides to go with artificial turf

Despite a strong push by grass backers, the Toronto Stadium Corp. has chosen to use an artificial surface in its new dome stadium. The Toronto dome will be the first in North America with a retractable roof.

Because of the roof's retractability, turf scientists agree that growing turf inside a dome is possible. Jim Watson, Ph.D., vice president of the Toro Co.; Bill Daniel, Ph.D., inventor of Prescription Athletic Turf (PAT); and Steve Wightman, sports turf manager of Denver's Mile High Stadium, addressed grass supporters and the Toronto Blue Jays' management earlier this year in Toronto.

The Stadium Corp. chose artificial turf despite a strong public support for grass. The *Toronto Star* asked readers to vote on the two surfaces. The results showed 4,515 people in favor of natural grass to 34 in favor of synthetic.

A confidential report by the Stadium Corp. stated that they chose artificial because:

- "To grow grass require a daily minimum of 50 percent of available daylight. This represents approximately, on average, six to eight hours of light per day."

- "The grass may not be able to withstand and recover from a series of back-to-back baseball and football games."

- "The natural grass systems require that the stadium not be used for other purposes immediately following the football season when time is required to remove the turf, and before the baseball season when time is required for resodding. There would be a minimum loss of a potential 25 revenue-generating days/year with a P.A.T.-type natural turf system. This would result in a projected loss over the first 14 years of approximately \$8.7 million."

- "The estimated cost premium of natural vs. artificial turf over the first 14 years of stadium use is approximately \$22 million."

- Plywood or another similar material must be placed over the natural grass to mount most non-sporting events. In the opinion of trade show experts, this would render this project a "second-class trade show facility" and would completely undermine its ability to attract world-class events.

- "There are major operational risks in installing a natural grass system in the Dome stadium. Such an installation would be unprecedented and there are no assurances that the grass would be in a suitable condition for opening baseball games. As no satisfactory warranties or guarantees are available, the Stadium Corporation would be required to assume the full risk for the major liabilities involved."

The testimony of Watson, Daniel and Wightman disputed many of the claims. Lighting depends not only on duration, but intensity of light. PAT marketers say turf would fare well with 35 hours of light per week.

Wightman can convert Mile High from baseball to football in 13½ hours. "We have overnight versatility and yet we have not sacrificed the safety and playability of the field," Wightman said.

Cost is another matter of interpretation. The Stadium Corp. included in its figures a 12-acre nursery at a cost of \$700,000. Sod could be grown at existing sod farms or nurseries and brought into the stadium.

Also, a new study by Robert Baade, a Lake Forest (Ill.) College economics professor, says that new stadiums produce few financial benefits for communities. Instead they "realign" economic growth.



Despite a vote of 4,515 to 34 by *Toronto Star* readers, the Toronto Stadium Corp. will put in artificial turf.

SEED

New bluegrasses replace two old Scotts' varieties

Two new varieties of Kentucky bluegrass developed by O.M. Scott & Sons—Coventry and Abbey—will begin replacing Bristol and Victa varieties, respectively, this year.

Coventry, under development since 1970, is an improved variety made from a cross of Gnome and an unreleased Scotts selection. In Scotts' tests, it has shown good shade tolerance and disease resistance. It will replace Bristol, introduced in 1976.

Abbey, developed at the company's Marysville, Ohio, research site, is adapted for both sun and

shade. It can be used in a wide range of geographic locations. Abbey replaces Victa, a patented variety introduced in 1973.

Other recent seed introductions from Scotts include Ovation perennial ryegrass and Chesapeake tall fescue. Ovation, developed by Momersteeg International in Holland, was a top performer in recent national winter overseeding trials. Chesapeake, developed from four clones, three of which originated in Atlanta, has shown excellent heat and drought tolerance in Scotts' tests, lowering irrigation needs.

RESEARCH

A healthy lawn works like a sponge

The thicker the lawn, the more water it absorbs, according to research done by Penn State University turfgrass professor Thomas L. Watschke, Ph.D.

This absorption ability helps chemicals do their job, Watschke says.

"High quality turfgrass sites significantly reduce the total runoff," Watschke says. After more than a year's testing, sodded plots had 15 times less runoff than seeded ones. "This indicates that the surface soil structural effects (on seeded surfaces)

do not correct themselves quickly," Watschke notes.

The 1,300-square-foot plots were so sponge-like that even under three-inch-per-hour simulated rainfall, not more than a half-gallon a minute came off the plots.

Watschke added that thatch or a large-pored layer of decaying grass on top of the soil provided a buffer to the "infiltration rate characteristics of the underlying soil," helping to reduce runoff.

LAWN CARE

Is chemical lawn care a risk to pets?

It's not uncommon to hear of bird kills from the misapplication of pesticides. But such negligence can also kill larger animals such as dogs and cats.

Dennis Blodgett, D.V.M., Ph.D., of Virginia Tech, says it's rare, but possible to kill animals with lawn chemicals. "In reality, if you dilute and apply chemicals correctly, you won't cause a problem," Blodgett says. "Walking through a yard, the animal won't pick up much because of the footpads."

Birds are more frequently poisoned because they mistake chemical granules for seeds, Blodgett says. Eating a grub killed by an insecticide

won't cause a problem.

Dogs and cats are hurt by chemicals when the true cholinesterase enzyme in the nervous tissue is deactivated. The enzyme, which is also found in humans, acts on insecticides in the body and the activity drops off. Organophosphates and carbamates can inhibit cholinesterase in the nervous systems.

Cholinesterase will regenerate in the body, but when regeneration is slower than exposure, the animal is in trouble.

Owners often expose their animals
continued on page 8

1-2-3

The first time pesticide users actually come in contact with pesticides is at mixing. Therefore, caution must be exercised right at the outset to ensure caution against possible accident situations.

Four steps to mixing safety are pointed out by Bert L. Bohmont of Colorado State University in his book "The New Pesticide User's Guide." They are:

1. Always read the label and be careful to properly dilute the pesticide. Make sure you're working with the proper equipment, that you're wearing protective clothing, and that first aid equipment is available.

2. When handling hazardous pesticides, never work alone.

3. Be sure to mix chemicals in an outdoor or well-ventilated location. Do not position your body over the seal or the pouring spout. Never tear open bags; under certain conditions, dusts and powders can billow up in large concentrations.

4. All quantities of the active ingredients should be measured accurately. Measuring containers and weighing scales should be kept where mixing is done. Measuring containers should be thoroughly washed and rinsed after each use.

"The New Pesticide User's Guide" is available through Reston Publishing, 11480 Sunset Hills Rd., Reston, VA, 22090.



New Musser directors

New directors of the Musser International Turfgrass Foundation, gathered at the GCSAA show in Phoenix earlier this year, are shown above. Left to right, they are Mike Bavier, CGCS, Illinois; Peter McMaugh, Australian turfgrass specialist; and Tom Burrows, CGCS, Florida.

"1-2-3" is a monthly department devoted to handling pesticides "by the numbers."

to chemicals with flea collars, flea dips and injections. But a lawn care chemical could push the animal over the limit.

"As a lawn care person, you could spray and decrease the animal's cholinesterase level only 10 or 15 percent, but you could be the culprit and you'll get blamed for everything," Blodgett warns.

If this happens, Blodgett says the lawn care worker needs to find out how much the owner exposed the animal to other chemicals.

Cats are more susceptible than dogs to chemicals because of their grooming habits and because the enzymes in the body don't handle insecticides as well as dogs.

Problems rarely occur from a normal lawn treatment. The only real problems happen with an incorrect dilution which causes run-off into puddles that the animal drinks from.

To avoid animal poisoning, Blodgett recommends:

- Never apply pesticides if pets are in the yard. Simply refuse.
- Tell the client to keep pets out of the yard until the application is dry.
- Empty and turn over all feeding bowls, water dishes and bird baths.
- Water in granules thoroughly.

- Avoid the creation of run-off puddles.

- Avoid application of insecticide formulations near bird feeders.

You can tell if a pet is poisoned by symptoms such as vomiting, diarrhea, tearing eyes, constricted pupils, salivation, difficult breathing and uncoordination. Symptoms must occur within 24 hours of a lawn treatment to be related. If a poisoning occurs:

- Call a vet and/or poison control center. An injectable drug may be necessary.

- If the vet is not available, and the pet was exposed through the skin, bathe the animal in soap and water immediately. Rinse thoroughly. Be sure to wear protective gloves and an apron.

If the animal ingested the toxin, give it water or milk mixed with one teaspoon to two tablespoons of three percent hydrogen peroxide. Dosage depends on the animal's size. Do not use this treatment in severely depressed animals. Do not use if ingestion is past two hours.

You can also give a dog activated charcoal which can be bought over the counter. Always go by the children's dose on the bottle.

Blodgett spoke at the Landscape Expo in Chicago, Ill.

PARKS

Vandalism a problem for park managers

Jeff Bourne, chief of the parks bureau of the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks, really knew how to get the people attending his vandalism session at the Landscape Exposition worked up. He just asked them what vandalism problems they had. Bourne did not have to say much after that.

The problems included graffiti, widespread trash, missing signs and a number of other annoyances. But what the vandalism caused most was frustration. "People won't use the park if it isn't looking good," commented one attendee. "(The vandals') presence inhibits attendance at the park."

One attendee, who's company does landscaping for a housing development, noted that because of vandalism, when he requested funding for more shrubs, he got an answer like "What's the point? They're going to be torn up anyway."

His solution has been to charge res-

continued on page 16

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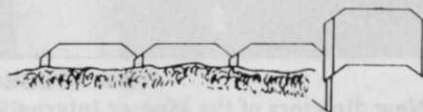
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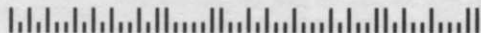
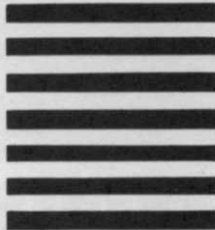
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