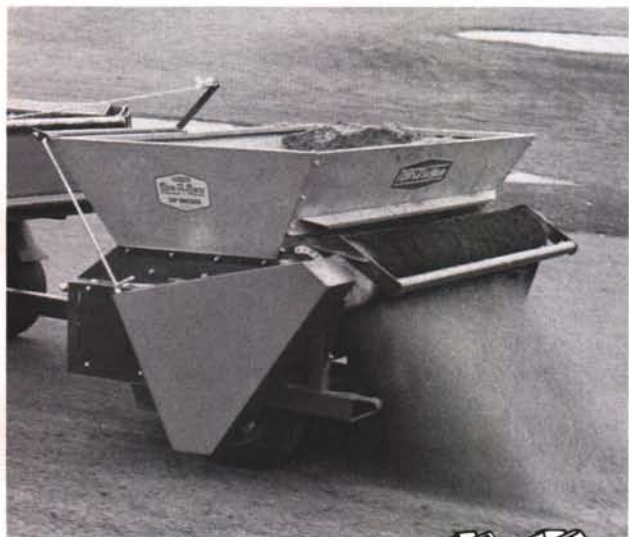


TURFCO METE-R-MATIC II

TOW-TYPE TOP DRESSER

Top dressing levels existing turf on athletic fields while stimulating growth and improving soil conditions. Repetitive top dressing fills in the low spots and also promotes the decomposition of thatch.



- Top dress an athletic field in under 2 hours
- Easy loading with a front end loader



- 1 The adjustable metering gate accurately controls the flow of top dressing.
- 2 The high-speed, rotating brush catches the top dressing from the conveyor belt and drives it down to the base of the turf.
- 3 A heavy-duty, composition, conveyor belt carries the top dressing from the hopper through the metering gate to the brush. Top dressing flows evenly and accurately.

- 18.3 cubic foot hopper capacity reduces both top dressing time and labor costs
- 60" width swath
- Pin Hitch makes attachment to tractor or turf truck easy and quick
- Ideal for sports turf application

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TURFCO

WEAR SIMULATOR DEVELOPED TO STUDY TURF RECOVERY



To get to the root of many problems with overused athletic fields, scientists need a way to duplicate the punishment inflicted by players upon natural turf during typical use. The answer may have been found recently by Stephen Cockerham, superintendent of agricultural operations at the University of California, Riverside (UCR) and his staff.

Cockerham has been the consulting agronomist for the Los Angeles Coliseum since 1983 and helped prepare the stadium for the 1984 Olympics. "How to manage athletic fields has become a critical question in an era when sports fields are receiving higher and higher use," he points out. "Many of the athletic fields I've seen around the nation are poorer quality than they were ten years ago. There is little research applicable to the problems of high-traffic fields."

The "traffic simulator" was designed to puncture and tear turf more quickly than football players do during a game. Two drums with cleat-type protrusions rotate at different speeds to rip the turf as the device is pulled across. UCR investigators will use the simulator to stress a 50 foot-square experimental plot of turf constructed like a state-of-the-art, sand-based athletic field. "We'll be able to simulate the stress of one football game by driving the simulator up and down the experimental field ten times," states Cockerham.

While stressing the turf daily, the scientists will apply different cultural practices to determine optimum levels of fertilization, mowing, irrigation, aerification, thatch reduction and pest control. Cockerham wants to find the recuperative limits of athletic turf to pinpoint the amount of time state-of-the-art fields need to recover and the cultural practices that speed up that recovery.

STN EXPANDS PRODUCTION OF SOD GROWN ON SAND

Tim Bowyer, president of Southern Turf Nurseries, Inc. (STN) Norcross, GA, recently announced the acquisition of a 300-acre sod farm in Lake Wales, FL, to increase its production of sod grown on sand. The sandy soils of the farm will produce sod for golf courses, athletic fields, soccer pitches and polo fields.

One of the new farm's specialty products, says general manager Bill Wilson, will be certified blue tag Tifdwarf sod grown on sand. This sod will eliminate washing and compatibility problems when used for sand-based greens, tees and sports fields.

The farm will also produce sod of the hybrid bermudagrass Tifgreen, Tifway and Tifway II. Some acreage will also be devoted to Centipedegrass sod. The new farm is located next to STN's sprig farm. Ronnie Hall, a graduate of the University of Georgia turf program, has been hired to manage the new farm.