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MAIN EVENTS

10 *The Best Bet for Turf Racetracks and Equestrian Venues*

Horses, like other athletes, can sense the amount of stability in a running surface. Careful planning and proper maintenance techniques can help prevent injuries to horses on turf surfaces. Steve Guise offers a detailed explanation of the considerations involved in a turf surface for horses.

14 *South Texas Racetrack Bets on Zoysia*

Zoysiagrass is frequently overlooked as an athletic surface, but the designers of Retama Park in Texas decided to give zoysia a try as the surface for the turf track at the new facility. Freelance writer Kathy Smith takes a look at the early returns.

16 *Overseeding: Making the Transition*

As the long, hot summer draws to a close, turf managers throughout the southern U.S. are preparing to overseed their athletic fields with cool-season grasses to keep them green and playable through the winter months. Robert Reaves talks with sports turf managers about their overseeding practices, including timing of overseeding, seed selection, weed control, surface preparation and other issues.

24 *Thatch Control: The Key to Turf Management*

Thatch control plays a crucial role in the turf management programs of many head groundskeepers throughout the warm-season zone. Associate Editor Barbara Augsdorfer interviews sports turf managers who share their ideas on thatch management and control practices.

26 *Turf of the Month: Rough Bluegrass*

For years rough bluegrass (*Poa trivialis*) has been lumped into the same category as *Poa annua* — another troublesome weed. However, sports turf managers are taking a hint from golf course superintendents and finding that rough bluegrass can actually be a useful turfgrass. Some even use *Poa trivialis* to choke out *Poa annua*.

28 *G.C. Trivett: The Man Behind M.S. Deal Stadium in Granite Falls, NC*

Some athletic fields are built with tax money. Others are built and maintained with private funds. However, in Granite Falls, NC, the new multi-purpose stadium at the middle school is a real community effort spearheaded by G.C. Trivett, sports turf manager for the stadium. Bob Tracinski interviewed Trivett to find out how he keeps the field in top shape for baseball, softball, football, soccer and other activities.

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On the Cover:

These horses can accelerate out of the turn at Monmouth Park in New Jersey because the turf surface has been chosen and maintained carefully to provide the best possible conditions for horse racing. Photo courtesy: Bill Denver, EQUI-PHOTO.