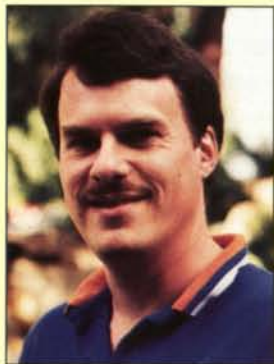


THE FRONT OFFICE

OPINION PAGE



What Is Sports Turf?

Most people probably think of sports turf as the grass that college and professional football and baseball players play on, usually hybrid bermuda in the South and perhaps a blue/rye mix in the North. Maybe soccer fields and some high school stadiums would be included as well. Of

course, those who actually work in the sports turf industry know that the definition extends well beyond those narrow boundaries. That's why *sportsTURF* magazine occasionally ventures beyond the limited world of baseball, football and soccer fields to explore some unique or unusual sports turf applications.

Last month we featured a story on turf racetracks, which offered information that should be helpful to anyone who maintains a heavy traffic turf area. This month we look at lawn bowling greens. These delicate turf surfaces are built and maintained to precise specifications, but some of the methods used in the construction and maintenance of lawn bowling greens can be applied to other sports turf surfaces as well. For example, Dr. Edgar Haley details the importance of a proper sand base for the turf and explains why standard irrigation practices may literally drown turf. While this information is most applicable to turf managers who maintain lawn bowling greens, some sports turf managers who maintain other types of playing surfaces should be able to use this information.

As the official magazine of the STMA, *sportsTURF* plans to cover a wide variety of turf topics in future issues. We plan to look at turf surfaces for tennis, polo, croquet, field hockey and other sports while maintaining extensive coverage of maintenance techniques for major turf sports such as baseball, football and soccer. As always, we welcome suggestions and ideas concerning the editorial content of the magazine. Your input is always appreciated. While these "minor" sports may not get as much attention as the "majors," these turf surfaces are considered "sports turf" in the same context as the fields at Fenway Park or Notre Dame Stadium are sports turf fields.

So what is sports turf? Perhaps the best answer is "any grass surface on which athletic or recreational activity is conducted."

Mike Augsdorfer

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EVENTS

CALENDAR

September

24 Southern California STMA event at Dodger Stadium. Contact: Chris Bunnell, (619) 432-2421.

October

3 Thirtieth Annual Turfgrass Equipment, Irrigation and Suppliers Field Day, sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey. The Mattawang GC, Belle Mead, NJ. Contact: Judy Policastro, (201) 379-1100.

4-5 Thirty-fifth Southern California Turfgrass Expo, Costa Mesa, CA. Contact: (800) 474-2967.

5-6 Texas Turf Irrigation Association convention and trade show, Grapevine Convention Center, Dallas, TX. Certified Irrigation Professional CEU courses will be available. (Also offered October 12-13 in San Antonio.) Contact: TTIA, (817) 598-0907.

9-12 Forty-ninth Northwest Turfgrass Conference and Golf Tournament, sponsored by the Northwest Turfgrass Association. Skamania Lodge and Conference Center, Stevenson, WA. Contact: (206) 754-0825.

10 "Principles of Sports Turf Management," sponsored by CHEMSEARCH. Glendale Community College, Glendale, AZ. Contact Brian Barklage, (800) 477-6242.

19 Colorado Chapter STMA Golf Tournament and Annual Business Meeting. Contact: Ross Kurcab, (303) 649-9000 or David Rulli, (303) 982-8528.

October - November

29-3 Agronomy Meetings, sponsored by the Turfgrass Science Division of the Crop Science Society of America. St. Louis, MO. Contact: Dr. Keith Karnok, (706) 542-0931. e-mail: kkarnok@uga.cc.uga.edu.