



Roots on Parade

Happy summer! This month's *sportsTURF* is our third theme issue of the year, dedicated to roots. As with our two previous theme issues, concerning the STMA Conference and baseball, this issue is completely dedicated to its subject, offering a broad range of articles on one common theme.

I received a terrific batch of features from a wide variety of writers from such locations as Colorado, Michigan, Massachusetts and the UK. No matter what type of turf you manage, no matter whether you are a novice or an expert, I guarantee you will find plenty of useful and relevant information in this issue.

Interested in the science behind healthy roots? Read Mary Owen's insightful piece on the physiology of plant growth. Looking for data backed up by research trials? Then Steven Baker's feature on rootzone material will be of interest to you. Think deep, healthy roots are essential to quality turf? Tony Koski will tell you otherwise in his article.

I hope this issue is as instructional, entertaining and informative to you as it has been for me. Thanks to all the writers for doing such a fantastic job.

New location

Speaking of roots, we here at Adams Business Media have lifted ours and planted them in a new location. We have left our suburban-Chicago office in favor of an office downtown. Here is our new contact information:

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Chicago, IL 60606
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I actually remain in the suburbs, working from my home office. My desk is near the window overlooking my backyard, so I can spend plenty of time doing the job I do best—watching the grass grow. My wife calls it day dreaming, I call it research.

Calendar update

We have made a slight change to our editorial calendar for the end of the year. Our November issue, which was originally slated to be a theme issue geared toward winter readiness, will now be dedicated to the 2001 STMA National Conference in Tampa, Fla. This should be a great help for all the conference's guests, as it will highlight vendors, speakers, workshop schedules and everything else attendees will need to successfully navigate and get the most out of the show.

Certification update

As of August 1, there are two new additions to the Certified Sports Field Manager group: Boyd Montgomery, facilities and maintenance director of Sylvania Recreation, and Mike Andresen, athletic turf manager for Iowa State University, passed all the requirements and exams necessary to earn CSFM status, joining the five others who have already done so. Andresen is having quite a year, having also been elected in January as the Category II Board Member for the STMA.

Congratulations, Rob and Mike, and good luck to all the others who are going through the certification process.

Michael SanFilippo
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Tip of the Month

Your Athletic Field and Your Child

Part II

by *Floyd Perry*

This column is presented in two parts. Part One was published in the July issue of sportsTurf.

Question: What can be frozen, baked, trampled, starved, dehydrated, saturated, compacted, cut too short, not cut at all, overfed, underfed, sliced, probed, smothered, painted and kicked, and still survive?

Answer: Quality athletic turf grass

For the lawn maintenance company that crosses over and handles quality athletic turf on a contract basis, remember to treat your new baby (sports turf) just like your family lawn with time tested methods.

Mowing and grooming

For best results according to the turf you're working with, the type of mower you're using, the mowing schedule you're trying to keep and the playing schedule you're trying to work around, it's best to not remove more than 1/3 of the leaf stem at any one time. It's also desirable not to have excess clippings or waste remaining on the turf surface. The most important segment of the mowing program is working with sharp blades to create a clean finished appearance.

Attempt during the playing times of the year to stripe or pattern the turf for the professional

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