

August 15

Ohio Turfgrass Foundation (OTF) Turfgrass Research Field Day, OTF Research & Education Center, Ohio State University West Campus, Columbus, OH. Contact: Kevin Thompson, OTF, PO Box 3388, Zanesville, OH 43702-3388; (888) 683-3445 or (740) 452-4541, ext. 3151; fax (740) 452-2552. Web site: <http://www.ohioturfgrass.org>.

August 22

Michigan Turfgrass Field Day, Hancock Turfgrass Research Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. Contact: Kay Patrick, (517) 321-1660 or mtf-turf@man.com. Web site: <http://www.michiganturfgrass.org>.

September 18

Turfgrass and Landscape Management Field Day, University of California, Riverside, CA. Contact: Susana Aparicio, Department of Botany and Plant Sciences, (909) 787-4430 or susana@citrus.ucr.edu.

October 1

Ohio Turfgrass Foundation's (OTF) Golf Tournament, The Country Clubs of Fox Meadow, Medina, OH (Cleveland area). Contact: Kevin Thompson, OTF, PO Box 3388, Zanesville, OH 43702-3388; (888) 683-3445 or (740) 452-4541, ext. 3151; fax (740) 452-2552. Web site: <http://www.ohioturfgrass.org>.

October 31-November 1

The Turfgrass Landscape & Equipment Expo, Fairplex, Pomona, CA. Contact: Southern California Turfgrass Council, 7100 Sunnyslope Ave., Valley Glen, CA 91405; (800) 500-SCTC (7282) or (818) 764-5016; fax (818) 764-3363; expo@turfCouncil.org. Web site: <http://www.turfCouncil.org>.

November 4-6

Mississippi Turfgrass Association Conference and Trade Show, Hattiesburg, MS. Contact:

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Regular readers of this space will notice another unfamiliar face atop the column this month; I'm Eric Schroder, the third editor of sportsTURF in the past four issues. What does that mean to you?

Well, a lot and a little. A little because sportsTURF remains the official publication of the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA), which means Steve and Suz Trusty, their staff, and all the STMA officers and members who contribute their energy and expertise to these pages haven't gone anywhere. Complete chapter news, peer-written technical articles, business advice, and other insight from STMA remain the foundation of the magazine no matter whose mug shot might appear in "The Front Office."

A lot because an editor should see and engender the "big picture" and provide something useful and/or entertaining when you pick up his or her magazine. A lot because if and when we meet I'm going to ask for your opinion about how sportsTURF can be better. A lot because my name is linked with the quality of this magazine as much as yours is to your showcase field.

Here's where I hum that familiar tune asking you to let me know how I'm managing your magazine. It's customary for editors to do so and with good reason; no matter how hard I try I'll make mistakes and I want to know about it. My job is to make your job easier, so help me by zipping me an email or picking up the phone when there's something, good or bad, you have to say.

One warm June morning this summer I bugged out of the office and headed for my local muni 9-hole golf course in the name of "research" for my new job. Playing around, I had new appreciation for the work that went into renovating several holes last year; then I came upon a crew dealing with a soggy ditch that I remembered as being dry ground. The timing was wrong but I wanted to ask them, "Hey, what's the problem?"

So don't be surprised, especially you Chicagoland region readers, if I call you someday and ask to come see your problems--and your accomplishments, of course.

My arrival foreshadows another change next month that you'll notice immediately--a physically larger, redesigned magazine that will focus more on the tools and services you rely on to do your best possible work. We hope that change, combined with my steadfast effort to present relevant information every issue, will ease your using sportsTURF like a reliable tool.

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Calendar of Events 2001 continued

Nell Cobb, (888) 268-9888 or sodfarm@c-gate.net.

November 10-13

12th annual Green Industry Expo (GIE), Tampa, FL. Contact: Professional Lawn Care Association of America, 1000 Johnson Ferry Rd., NE, Suite C-135, Marietta, GA 30068-2112; (770) 973-2019; fax (770) 578-6071; info@gieonline.com. Web site: <http://www.gieonline.com>.

November 13-15

New York State Turfgrass Association's (NYSTA) Turf and Grounds Exposition, Oncenter, Syracuse, NY. Contact: NYSTA, PO Box 612, Latham, NY 12110; (518) 783-1229/(800) 873-TURF (8873); fax (518) 783-1258; nysta@nysta.org. Web site: <http://www.nysta.org>.

December 3-6

35th Ohio Turfgrass Conference & Show, Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, OH. Contact: Kevin Thompson, OTF, PO Box 3388, Zanesville, OH 43702-3388; (888) 683-3445 or (740) 452-4541, ext. 3151; fax (740) 452-2552. Web site: <http://www.ohioturfgrass.org>.

December 5-7

The Rocky Mountain Regional Turfgrass Association's (RMRTA) 48th annual Conference & Trade Show, Colorado Convention Center, Denver, CO. Contact: RMRTA, 9101 E. Kenyon Ave., Suite 3000, Denver, CO 80237-1805; (303) 770-2220; fax (303) 770-1812; rmrta@gwami.com.

December 11-13

New Jersey Turfgrass Expo 2001, Trump Taj Mahal Resort & Casino, Atlantic City, NJ. Contact: Rutgers University, (732) 932-9375.

Watering just at the time of wilting will maximize the time between each watering to give the infrequent part of this general rule of thumb. When wilt occurs nearly all of the available water in the soil is gone and you need to supply enough water to completely fill the root zone again. Think of your root zone as a tank of water. Run the tank near empty and then fill it back up. Filling the tank or thoroughly watering the field is another way of expressing "deep" irrigation. Depending on the soil's water holding capacity, it may take 0.5 to 1.5 inches of water to replenish the moisture between these infrequent waterings.


Sand-based systems store less water so they need to be checked more often (daily), but not necessarily watered more often. Mild wilting on sand-based fields is a mandatory part of proper management to maximize rooting and traffic tolerance. Since water storage is minimal in sand systems, be prepared to water shortly after onset of wilt. A sand field showing mild wilt will usually need watering within 24 hours. If wilt is carried too far then tire tracking from equipment may injure turf. Tire traffic on severely wilted turf will


cause brown grass in the tire tracks a few days after driving on the wilted grass.

Black and gray discoloration of soils often referred to as "black layer," is a clear indication of excessive and improper irrigation. A nasal inspection of the soil will easily detect a stinky odor of methane gas from the anaerobic condition. This is a common problem on sand-based and native soil fields that are sodded and then over-watered in an attempt to make the sod grow-in faster.



This summer I met some great people at the Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Chapter's workshop in Knoxville. In addition to teaching me the greeting "hi-y'all," our host Bobby Campbell showed us his irrigation system on the Volunteers Stadium Field. As Bobby bent over and grunted to manually turn on one of the six big gun irrigation heads he imparted this bit of wisdom "over watering is not a problem for us since we have to walk across the field each time before we turn on the water." It's not the tool, but how you use it. Bye y'all.






THE IRON HORSE OF ALS

When Lou Gehrig's widow chose an organization to lead the fight against amyotrophic lateral sclerosis — the muscle-wasting disease that killed her husband — she selected the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Since the time she served as MDA national campaign chairman, the Association has consistently led the battle against ALS. MDA maintains the world's largest nongovernmental ALS research and patient services program.

Join our rally for a cure.



Muscular Dystrophy Association
1-800-572-1717 • www.mdausa.org

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Because MDA Helps People*