

July 20-22

Outdoor Power Equipment Institute's (OPEI) 18th annual International Lawn, Garden & Power Equipment Expo (EXPO 2001), Kentucky Exposition Center, Louisville, KY. Contact Sellers Expositions, at tel. (800) 558-8767, or tel. (812) 949-9200. Web site: <http://expo.mow.org>.

July 31

Midwest Regional Turf Field Day, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN. Contact Bev Bratton, at tel. (765) 494-8039. Web site: <http://www.agry.purdue.edu/turf>.

August 5

Cornell University Field Day, Ithaca, NY. Contact Joann Gruttadaurio, at tel. (607) 255-1792.

August 22

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

September 2-4

GAFA Koln International Garden Trade Fair, Cologne, Germany. E-mail: gafa@koelnmesse.de. Web site: <http://km.nexum.de/gafa>.

October 16-17

Garden Expo, Toronto Congress Centre, Toronto, ON, Canada. For more information, contact Landscape Ontario Horticultural Trades Association, Special Events Dept., at tel. (905) 875-1805 or e-mail: showinfo@landscapeontario.com. Web site: <http://www.hort-trades.com>.

October 31-November 1

The Turfgrass Landscape & Equipment Expo, Fairplex, Pomona, CA. Contact Southern California Turfgrass Council, at tel. (800) 500-SCTC, or tel. (818) 764-5016, or e-mail: expo@turf council.org. Web site: <http://www.turf council.org>.

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Zones & Layers

Although I'm not an expert on the rootzones and sub-surface layers of athletic fields, I do feel it's important to point out the research findings of others who are experts.

One such expert, Dr. Lloyd M. Callahan—professor emeritus, grass physiologist, molecular geneticist and agronomist at the University of Tennessee (UT)—has recently completed a seven-year research study to evaluate the use of various geotextiles as an intermediate layer between the rootzone of the athletic field or golf green and the sub-drain coarse aggregate. The two main findings of the study are that A) there needs to be an intermediate layer, and B) the intermediate layer should not be sand.

"Many sports fields are being constructed using USGA and USGA-type profiles," Callahan notes. "Many individuals in the turf industry and researchers support the need for an intermediate layer between the rootzone and sub-drain coarse aggregate in USGA green profiles. However, the need for an intermediate layer has often been questioned and is a major ongoing controversy."

According to Callahan, USGA guidelines (1960, 1973, 1989 and 1993) have some serious and expensive flaws built into them, the last three revisions being only arbitrary, non-research-based revisions. "Our greatest concern is in directing people to the most reliable field guidelines known," he explains, "and that appears to be a USGA profile on the order of the 1960 and 1973 specifications, but with a reliable geotextile in place of the very coarse sand intermediate layer. A rootzone profile with no intermediate layer is a recipe for disaster."

The seven-year study, conducted by Dr. Callahan and his associates at UT, evaluated the effectiveness, reliability, durability and performance of ten geotextiles as intermediate layer drainage separators in comparison to a USGA profile with and one without, a coarse sand layer. These treatments (trt) were: trt 1, sand intermediate layer; trt 2, no intermediate layer; trts 3 through 6, Typars; trts 7 through 10, Terrabonds; trt 11, Pro 5; and trt 12, Duon.

Study results found that the optimum field water infiltration and percolation rate was exhibited by trts 5, 6, 7, 9 and 12; the optimum field water retention range was shown by trts 7, 8, 9, and 10; and the optimum available water holding capacity trts were 7, 8, 9 and 10. "The study found that the most effective, reliable and durable geotextiles were the Terrabond treatments 8, 9 and 10," Callahan notes.

Free copies of the full 67-page study—"Geotextiles As An Intermediate Layer In USGA and USGA-Type Greens," Bulletin 699, February 2001—are available by calling (865) 974-7324.

Michael Oswald
Editor

Calendar of Events 2001 continued

November 4-6

Mississippi Turfgrass Association Conference and Trade Show, Hattiesburg, MS. Contact Nell Cobb, at tel. (888) 268-9888 or e-mail: sodfarm@c-gate.net. Website: <http://www.msstate.edu/org/mta>

November 10-13

12th Annual Green Industry Expo (GIE), Tampa, FL. Contact Professional Lawn Care Association of America, at tel. (770) 973-2019, or e-mail: 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, at tel. (800) 873-TURF, or tel. (518) 783-1229, or e-mail: nysta@nysta.org. Web site: <http://www.nysta.org>.

December 3-6

35th Ohio Turfgrass Conference & Show, Columbus, OH. Contact Kevin Thompson, at tel. (888) 683-3445, (ext. 3151). Web site: <http://www.ohioturfgrass.org>.

December 5-7

The Rocky Mountain Regional Turfgrass Association's (RMRTA) 48th Annual Conference and Trade Show, Denver Convention Center, Denver, CO. Contact RMRTA at tel. (303) 770-2220, or e-mail: rmrta@gwami.com.

December 12

Turfgrass and Landscape Institute & Trade Show, Sequoia Conference Center, Buena Park, CA. Contact Southern California Turfgrass Council, at tel. (800) 500-SCTC, or tel. (818) 764-5016, or e-mail: expo@turf council.org. Web site: <http://www.turfcouncil.org>.

letter featuring regulatory updates, product news, training scripts and IPM success stories.



Hiring, Promotions

Wally Boilek (pictured) has been hired by Becker Underwood as a National Accounts Manager for the company. In this position, Boilek will facilitate and coordinate the activities of the company's service to key national accounts, and support the sales team that serves them.

John Walther has been promoted to a National Accounts Manager position, and will continue to serve as territory sales manager. Walther will help develop national distribution strategy for select accounts and work with each company's salesman in their respective territories. Also, Mike Sherman has been promoted to the position of Business Development Manager, where he'll focus on new business strategy and new products opportunities.

Scholarships

To honor top students from the Golf Course Operations, Landscape Technology, Irrigation Equipment and Turf Equipment Management programs of Lake City Community College (LCCC), Howard Fertilizer held its 14th annual golf tournament and awards banquet. Four top students—Christian Milican, Brian Fanning, Joe Samp and David Green—received the scholarships following the golf tournament. "The training and education the students receive at LCCC is a very important part of their development in the turf and lawn care field," noted Robert Gonzalez, Vice President of Howard Fertilizer. "There's a certain caliber that these programs set for them-

selves, and it's top-notch quality."

Joint Providers

Reinders (a full-service turf, irrigation and landscape supply distributor) and Toro (a leading commercial equipment manufacturer) have teamed up with the Milwaukee Brewers, to handle the turf equipment and irrigation needs of Miller Park for the 2001 through 2003 seasons. Reinders and Toro are supplying the Brewers with a variety of equipment, such as mowers, aerators, dragmats, irrigation heads and valves. "Reinders and Toro provide us extensive product selection, trusted product reliability and the necessary service and support we want as we move into Miller Park," said Gary VandenBerg, Director of Grounds for the Brewers.

Field Renovation

Ryan Field, home of the Northwestern University football team, has recently completed a renovation project that utilized Profile porous ceramic soil amendment. The field was named football field of the year in the college/university category, at the Sports Turf Managers Association Conference & Exhibition, in Tampa, FL.

Following serious drainage problems during the football season, Ryan Field was completely renovated in 1999. The renovation included roto-tilling 88 tons of Profile porous ceramic soil amendment, from Profile Products LLC, into the top six inches of soil. Soon after the rebuild, Eric Adkins, agronomist and head groundskeeper at Ryan Field, said he noticed improved root growth, a dramatic reduction in water usage, and a percolation rate that more than doubled.

Making Tracks

In order to fulfill the need for detailed information about its unique rubber track technology, ASV has launched a new website (www.asvi.com). The new site, which will be continuously updated, focuses on the technology that sets ASV apart. Website features include an in-depth look at ASV's Posi-Track All Purpose Crawlers and the new RC30 All Surface Loader, including full specifications, work tool listings, equipment videos and a variety of job