

Penn State Proud

Penn State has a long tradition of training turfgrass managers. There are currently 240 resident students pursuing undergraduate degrees in turfgrass science at Penn State University. Many more students pursue a degree through Penn State's World Campus, an online education program where students can receive a Bachelor of Science Degree in Turfgrass Science via the Internet.

This summer Penn State students are interning at various golf courses and

sports venues around the world. In the sports turf arena Penn State has interns at Fenway Park in Boston, Baltimore Ravens in Maryland, Lakewood Blue Claws in New Jersey, Milwaukee Brewers in Wisconsin, Lebanon Valley College in Pennsylvania, and at Beaver Stadium on the Penn State Campus, among many others.

Of particular note is Aaron Fineberg, one of the SAFE Scholarship winners from last year. Aaron will be interning with Tony Leonard of the Philadelphia Eagles. Along with the everyday maintenance and preparation of the facility for the upcoming season, Aaron's internship project will consist of a study of the chemical control of *Poa trivialis* in high-cut stands of Kentucky Bluegrass.

The objectives of the study include evaluation of the side effects of chemical compounds on the varying cool season turfgrass species present at the time of application, the time needed to see results, and how quickly reseeding can occur.

Having undergraduate students aiding in research in the field gives researchers valuable information regarding real world application of our findings and allows the student and practitioner a greater understanding of the scientific process.

Research Overview

By Jim Brosnan, Ph.D candidate

Little research data exists on the safety or playability of baseball surfaces, especially the skinned portion of the infield. Baseball field managers

TIFSPORT

Why Does This Certified Bermudagrass Variety Make Such Good Sense for Sunbelt Playing Fields?

Closer Mowing Heights

Research conducted in Tifton GA shows that TifSport can tolerate closer mowing heights than Tifway and Midiron. With TifSport, mowing fanatics can mow away to their heart's content.

Superior Turf Density

TifSport has a greater density than Tifway - about a 1 point difference on a 10 point scale. And it's about 3 points better than common bermudagrass.

Good Lateral Growth

TifSport is more aggressive than genetically pure Tifway, especially during the cool weather months. This may account for TifSport's rapid grow-in and repair time.

Superior Sod Strength

TifSport's superior sod strength means quicker installation with less waste, and that's got to be good for your bottom line.

Excellent Traffic Tolerance

TifSport's turf density, sod strength and good lateral growth rate give it a high ranking for traffic tolerance..

Upright Leaf Blade Orientation

TifSport's leaf blade stiffness is being touted by many turfgrass professionals. With TifSport players seem to get better bounces.

Impressive Leaf Texture

TifSport has a similar leaf texture to Tifway, and a finer leaf texture than most other grasses. TifSport will deliver excellent footing for sports fields of all stripes.

Dark Green Color

Pastel green is passé. TifSport's dark emerald green color will make your fields the envy of the neighborhood.

Drought Tough

All grass has to have water, but TifSport can help you make it through those summer water restrictions. It stays healthier and recovers faster from drought than most other bermudas.

Cold Tolerant

TifSport has expanded the northern limit for warm season bermudagrasses. It has survived multiple winters as far north as Stillwater OK & Lexington KY.

Pest Resistant

Research has shown that mole crickets just plain don't like TifSport. That's just one more reason why you should.

Vigorous Root System

This inside view of a typical TifSport plug shows TifSport's impressive root system, stolons and rhizomes.



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place the majority of their effort into maintaining adequate moisture in the skinned areas of the infield. It remains unknown though, how changes in moisture content of this surface affect not only the ball to surface interaction, but the player to surface interaction as well.

As a part of my dissertation research at Penn State University a survey of baseball fields across the United States will be conducted. Fields at all levels of competition will be evaluated for surface hardness and ball bounce. Surface hardness will be measured using both a Clegg Impact