increases infiltration and aeration and increases traction."

We called on some turfgrass experts to create a partial "report card" on these products to date.

Don Hatcher and Tom Foley of The University of Oklahoma in Norman, report that they are testing TurfGrids as compaction relief for the problem area along the sidelines of the football field. The product was installed last year. The entire field was graded, and the material was tilled into the sideline area. After tilling, the installation area was a few inches higher than the rest of the field. In retrospect, it would have been better to remove some of the sand before tilling in the grids. The contractor attempted to put the material down with tampers with some success. Grading the installation area was also a challenge for the contractor.

Sod was laid on July 4, and the first game was played on September 17. The Sooners played five home games, with a practice every Thursday, and some high school playoff games were also held on the field.

An infrared alarm system was installed around the perimeter of the field, which did dig up some of the installation area. Some problems occurred due to the interface layer caused by the soil on the sod and the sand profile beneath. Core aerating twice helped the interface problem and improved drainage. Also, the stadium acts like a big bowl, channeling everything from the top down onto the field.

To date, they have not noticed any real difference between the sideline wear and that on the field, although with all the things done to the field this season, it is hard to tell. They will continue to monitor results. They also heard about Netlon ATS while at the STMA annual meeting in Bradenton, FL, and would also like to look into that.

David Ashman, athletic facilities manager for UCLA Intercollegiate Athletics in Los Angeles, reports on Netlon ATS trials in a high-traffic area near the main entrance of the stadium at UCLA, the first area that any UCLA recruit sees when visiting the campus. Forty different vehicles garaged on site have to get on the field through this entrance. TV and emergency standby equipment go on the field there. Before test installation, the area required resodding two or three times a year.

Ashman looked at lots of data and thought Netlon ATS had the best chance of solving his problem. Three test plots have been set up at the field entrance: one to Netlon ATS specifications, one check plot and one plot modified to try an installation alternative. Plots were installed in mid-June 1994.

The Netlon ATS test area maintained color and vigor throughout the test. Even though grass growth was slowing down in November, the color was still good. No resodding was necessary.

When high-traffic spots started to show some yellowing, play was shifted to a different area. There was quick regeneration and no compaction underneath.

November is when bowl invitations are extended and when NFL scouts make decisions; therefore, it is the time when an athlete could be more susceptible to injury, especially if the field is showing extra wear. The athlete needs the best competitive playing conditions. Ashman says that it appears that the Netlon installation can keep the field in top condition all season long.

Ashman is planning a trial on the playing surface. If that succeeds, he will want it on the entire field.

Andre Bruce, turf manager for the Kansas City Chiefs, reports that TurfGrids were installed on the sidelines and behind the goal posts at Arrowhead Stadium in June 1994 to stabilize the soil in these high-traffic areas. The TurfGrids seem to make the soil harder and the sand more stable. More time is needed to evaluate results.

Darren Varner of HOK Sports Facilities Group was in charge of both the Arrowhead Stadium and University of Oklahoma installations. Varner reports that while TurfGrids were considered easier to work with than Netlon ATS, actual installation of TurfGrids was "really hard." He thinks the TurfGrids material was OK to install on a small area but would be difficult on a large area.

Both TurfGrids and Netlon seem to be difficult to grade. Varner thinks an inch of topdressing over the profile would produce a different layer that would not have the beneficial characteristics for which the product was used in the first place.

Varner reports no negative effects so far, but he has not seen any difference. The installation of TurfGrids has not affected drainage and certainly has not slowed it down. More time is needed for evaluation. Varner will need to see positive results to be convinced that installation is worthwhile. Naturally, if anything goes wrong, the new product will be blamed.

Mike Heacock, vice president of maintenance for American Golf Corp. in Santa Monica, CA, is using Netlon ATS in a tee area to reduce compaction. The Netlon ATS profile extends to an eight-inch depth. Heacock cautions that the grading needs to be done carefully to avoid dragging the material up or carrying it off. Continued on page 32.
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Graywater Seminars Planned
A pair of two-day seminars are scheduled for June that will detail a new niche market for landscapers — compliance with graywater legislation.

Graywater use in California became legal on November 9, 1994, with the addition of Appendix J to the California Uniform Plumbing Code. The workshops will cover topics such as how to plumb a new set of pipes beneath a house; how to determine the daily amount of graywater flow; methods for sizing the system’s surge tank; how to pump the graywater to the landscape; and, ways to provide adequate filtration for a subsurface drip-irrigation system.

The seminars are scheduled for June 10-11 at the Holiday Inn, Burbank, and June 16-17 at the Hyatt Regency in Irvine. For more information, call Gary Stewart at (818) 562-1449.

Turf Resource Guide in Development
The Turfgrass Science Division of the Crop Science Society of America is compiling information for a Turfgrass Management Teaching Resource Guide. The purpose of the guide is to provide information about available resources for individuals involved in turfgrass education and training. It will be designed to aid those involved in turfgrass education or training in high schools, community colleges, universities, extensions and private industry. Resources include videos, audiovisual presentations, computer software, books, periodicals, irrigation components, posters, etc.

The Crop Science Society continues to solicit potential sources to be included in the book. For more information, contact Dr. Keith J. Karnack, (706) 542-0931. Fax: (706) 542-0914.

Name Change Announced
With the growth of factory-owned retail branch operations, Jacobsen Division of Textron has decided to standardize the name of all operations to Jacobsen/Textron of Southern California.

The name change affects Western Turf and Commercial in Corona, Desert Turf and Commercial in Palm Desert and Western Turf and Commercial in Escondido.

GIE ’94 Called a Success
An influx of thousands of lawn and landscape professionals coursed through St. Louis, MO, November 14-17, 1994, for the fifth annual Green Industry Expo. Retail shops at a downtown mall sported signs, hotel employees wore ribbons and city streetlights were decorated with flags welcoming GIE participants.

“GIE brings a lot of revenue to the host
"Innovations in Green," a daylong seminar with afternoon demonstrations, is scheduled for March 17 at the El Cajon Community Center in El Cajon, CA. The event is sponsored by the Cuyamaca College Botanical Society and the University of California Cooperative Extension.

Topics to be discussed include: "Solutions for Turfgrass and Pesticide Use on Environmentally Sensitive Sites," "Green-Waste Management," and "Fate of Turfgrass Fertilizers and Pesticides." Cost is $45 per person and includes course materials, refreshments and lunch.

For more information, contact: Dee Landis-Maranhao at (619) 670-1980, ext. 262 or Steve Wightman, (619) 525-8272.

First Aid for Turfgrass

A free first-aid kit for turfgrass is available from the Turfgrass Producers International to illustrate the environmental benefits of turfgrass sod.

"Turfgrass - First Aid for the Earth" contains brochures and information about caring for Earth. Some of the benefits provided by turfgrass which are discussed in the kit are erosion control, dust and dirt trap, solar-heat dissipation, sports-injury reduction, carbon dioxide absorption and property-value increase.

The kit is free by calling (800) 405-TURF.

Study Indicates Serendipitous Benefits

All turf professionals know that the first few weeks of a seedling's life are the most critical to its growing future. Fungicides can be a key factor in getting turf off to a healthy start.

Besides the expected benefits of disease control, a recent study at Iowa State University indicates that fungicide has the ability to "jump start" a turf's root system during the first few weeks after planting.

The study was conducted by Professor Nick Christians and Research Associate Roger Roe using Kentucky bluegrass and a variety of fungicide products.
Chemical Sprayer
The new Front Mount 3500 sprayer can spray 12 feet for wide areas, five feet for tight areas, and is highly maneuverable to cut spray time whether it's windy or not. The breakaway boom protects the wings. Its positive drift control enables spraying close to edges and in wind. Spray can be done at a rate of 395,000 square feet per hour.

ROGERS INNOVATIVE
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Field Maintenance
Catalog
Everything needed for equipping and maintaining baseball, softball, football and soccer fields is included in a new catalog by Beacon Ballfields. Items include bases, plates, batting cages, protectors, bat-and-ball racks, field covers and storage lockers. Field-maintenance items include Diamond-Dry, Turface, drags, harrows, paint, dry-line markers, batter's box mats and water-removal equipment. The 1995 catalog is free.

BEACON BALLFIELDS
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Drainage Composite
Gundflow is a patented polyethylene net geotextile drainage composite that is available with the geotextile on one or both sides. It is designed to be the equivalent of a gravel drain with 10 times the drainage capacity of conventional nets, and is capable of replacing several feet of stone or gravel.

The unique three-strand net configuration allows superior flow capabilities along with excellent transmissivity.

GUNDLE LINING SYSTEMS INC.
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Field Conditioner
The All Star AFC is powered by a 12.5-hp Kohler Command gasoline engine with a Silent muffler. The hydrostatic drive offers a smooth acceleration and deceleration and tight turning radius. Top speed is 12 mph. Implements include a 40-inch front-mounted plow, a 46-inch scarifier to loosen hard-packed surfaces, a 74-inch Flex-Action infield finisher with rubber-flail fingers and a 71-inch Professional field finisher.

SMITHCO
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Injection System
The multijets of this high-pressure liquid turfgrass injection system deliver numerous soil and turf products to soil depths from two to 18 inches. The treatment of turfgrass and soil conditions is accomplished without environmental impairment.

Injection materials include pesticides, water-retention polymers, soil de-compaction treatments, root stimulators, turf-growth treatments, fertilizers, enzymes, microbes, organic nutrients, oxidation products and water.

Applications include golf greens, tee boxes and fairways; athletic fields, parks, racetracks and other landscaping operations.

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THE BROYHILL CO.
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To become a member of the Foundation and receive your free trees, send a $10 contribution to Ten Blue Spruces, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410.

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STMA provides members with a variety of benefits, including: Education through regional institutes and conferences; support for sports turf research; facilities tours; a national awards program; access to the STMA National Conference and Exhibition; complimentary subscriptions to *Sports Turf Manager* and *SportsTurf Magazine*; and much more.

If you're serious about the sports turf industry, then it's time to become a member of STMA. Join today!

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