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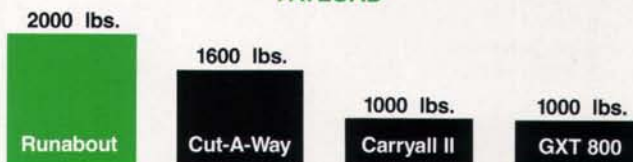
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VOLUME SIX, NUMBER SIX

JUNE 1990

MAIN EVENTS

11 THE ROLE OF POLYMERS IN WATER MANAGEMENT

Water management will be the top priority of the golf and sports turf industries in this decade. Every tool that has the potential to save water must be put to work. One such tool is a group of spongelike granules known as polymers. Long used in soil mixes for greenhouse and nursery production, the plastic- and starch-based particles have been tried by a number of golf course superintendents, sports field managers, and contractors to increase the water-holding capacity of soils. The development of equipment to place the polymers into the rootzone of established turf is now opening up a whole new technology in water management. This article explains the different types of polymers on the market, points out research at various universities, and shows the machines currently available for installing polymers in the ground.

21 FERTILIZATION OF SAND-BASED ROOTZONES

Turf specialists have solved problems with drainage, compaction, hardness, and shallow rooting by replacing or amending native soils with sand. However, the very characteristics that make sand drain well and resist compaction also make it relatively poor as a reservoir for water and nutrients. Sand-based rootzones on golf greens and athletic fields require greater attention to detail when it comes to fertilization. Nitrogen must be primarily in slow-release forms. Supplemental nitrogen and potassium, as well as micronutrients, must be applied on a light, frequent basis to avoid serious deficiencies and a loss of turf vigor. Examples of facilities with sand-based rootzones provide insight for the turf manager.

LINE-UP

- 6 FRONT OFFICE
- 7 EVENTS
- 26 CHALKBOARD
- 30 ROOKIES
- 34 SCOREBOARD

COVER: Cross-linked polyacrylamide polymers swollen with water.
Photo courtesy: Aquatrols Corporation of America.

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INDYK TO RETIRE FROM RUTGERS



Dr. Henry W. Indyk, a longtime leader in the turfgrass industry, will retire at the end of this month from Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, where he has been a faculty member for more than 30 years. He will join the Greenway Group, Horsham, PA, as chief agronomist.

Indyk has been instrumental in elevating the term, "professional turfgrass manager." Active in the formation of numerous organizations, he played a substantial role in the growth of the New Jersey Turfgrass Association, the Cultivated Sod Association of New Jersey, the American Sod Producers Association, the Irrigation Association of New Jersey, and the Bergen County Landscape Contractors Association.

Indyk's active involvement and contributions to the industry have been recognized by a number of organizations. He is an honorary member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey, and has been general chairman of the New Jersey Turfgrass Expo for the past 16 years. His honors include the Irrigation Association Man of the Year Award in 1978, the New Jersey Turfgrass Hall of Fame Award in 1985, and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey Distinguished Service Award in 1989.

SNOW NAMED GREEN SECTION NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Jim Snow, former director of the United States Golf Association Green Section Northeastern Region, has been named Green Section national director.

Snow will oversee the Green Section's Turf Advisory Service, which provides expert consultation to courses and superintendents around the country. "The advisory service offers a completely unbiased source of information about what does and does not work," he said.

His responsibilities also include chairing the USGA Turfgrass Research Committee. In cooperation with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, the committee is sponsoring a field research project to quantify and document the impact of

turfgrass management on the environment.

Objectives include developing a comprehensive manual that superintendents can use to ensure environmental quality, as well as to document the effects of golf courses on human, biological, and environmental factors.

A native of New York, he received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Cornell University. He joined the Green Section's Northeastern Region in 1976 as an agronomist, and later became its director.

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THE FRONT OFFICE

OPINION PAGE

STMA HAS LOST ITS ORIGINAL SPIRIT



As someone close to the Sports Turf Managers Association from the beginning, I feel compelled to speak my piece about recent actions taken by the association's officers and board. A growing number of industry leaders are concerned...for good reason. I think it's time that groundskeepers and managers of sports complexes who believe in the need for a strong industry association are provided with more information about what has been going on these past few years inside STMA.

In 1981, a small group of unselfish individuals realized that the vast majority of managers of sports fields were operating in a vacuum. Because of this, turf at stadiums, parks, schools, and universities was below its potential in terms of quality, durability, and safety.

This was the humble beginning of STMA. The founders were willing to reveal secrets held by professional league field managers and to point out the need for university research. STMA was founded as a much-needed source of technical and professional information for tens of thousands of sports turf managers nationwide.

STMA had to build a foundation on membership dues and commercial support. For the first five years, it grew exclusively with the energy of generous volunteers. However, it also depended largely on the resources of the National Institute of Parks and Grounds Management (NIPGM) in Appleton, WI, and then California Polytechnic University in Pomona. Money generated by seminars and later by Sports Turf Institutes helped finance membership services. During this period, STMA grew to more than 500 members.

In 1987, the board hired its first paid staff person and moved into independent offices. More institutes were added in Chicago, Boston, and Florida; an annual national conference was launched; and membership increased to 700. The dedication of both founders and new members was reflected in a spirit of unity.

In the beginning, STMA was a team. We kept in touch with phone calls and letters. If there was a problem or disagreement, everyone worked together to settle it. We were all glad to help and felt included. People didn't have to be on the board to have input and board members were receptive to new ideas.

People who devoted thousands of hours of their time in the beginning have lately been treated with tremendous disrespect. Personality fights break out every other month. You can't even write your comments to one board member without getting a nasty letter from another. Decisions are constantly being made by the board without first consulting those who are affected. STMA has lost the spirit upon which it was founded.

As a result, STMA is losing the support of some old friends, including Cal Poly and this magazine. It has also lost some influential members who have a great deal to contribute to the association besides dues.

For the past two years, STMA has been headquartered in a new office building in Upland, a few miles from the Cal Poly campus. A large portion of the association's budget was needed just to pay the rent. There wasn't enough money left over to pay a qualified executive director or expand membership services.

The board decided to close the Upland office and hire an association management firm. A search committee was formed in January. Without asking the members or "old friends" for their suggestions, the committee selected a company without association management experience at more than \$50,000 per year. It was clearly an inside job. Not even the members of the search committee saw the final contract.

STMA has burned bridges from coast to coast. It has lost touch with many who gave a great deal to help get it this far. Ironically, this organization, founded to eliminate secrecy and share information, is now apparently operating in a vacuum. What a terrible shame!

Bruce F. Shank

EVENTS

CALENDAR

JULY

18

Facilities Management Workshop, Davidson College, Davidson, NC. Contact: PGMS, 10402 Ridgland Rd., Suite 4, Cockeysville, MD 21030, (301) 667-1833.

29-31

International Lawn, Garden and Power Equipment Expo, Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center, Louisville, KY. Contact: Expo 90, P.O. Box 70465, Louisville, KY 40270, (800) 558-8767

AUGUST

9

Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Day, Turfcenter, Ryders Lane, Cook College, New Brunswick, NJ. Contact: Dr. Henry Indyk, Crop Science Dept., Cook College, New Brunswick, NJ 08903, (201) 932-9453.

9

Facilities Management Workshop, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH. Contact: PGMS, 10402 Ridgland Rd., Suite 4, Cockeysville, MD 21030, (301) 667-1833.

21

Facilities Management Workshop, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA. Contact: PGMS, 10402 Ridgland Rd., Suite 4, Cockeysville, MD 21030, (301) 667-1833.

SEPTEMBER

4-6

Institute of Groundsmanship Sports Trade Exhibition, East of England Showground, Peterborough, UK. Contact: IOC, 19-23 Church St., Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, UK MK12 5LG; telephone Milton Keynes (0908) 311856.

18

Professional Turfgrass Field Day, Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY. Contact: Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association, P.O. Box 396, Mamaroneck, NY 10543, (203) 329-8257.

18-19

Virginia Tech Turf Research Field Days, Turfgrass Research Center, Blacksburg, VA. Contact: J. R. Hall III, Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, 424 Smyth Hall, Blacksburg, VA 14061-0403, (703) 231-9736.

30-3

Florida Turfgrass Association Annual Conference and Show, Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, FL. Contact: FTA, Inc., 302 S. Graham Avenue, Orlando, FL 32803-6332, (407) 898-6721.

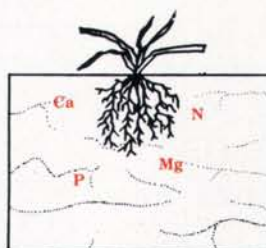
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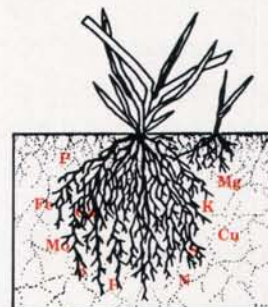
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COLORADO STATE AWARDED TURFGRASS RESEARCH GRANT

In a show of support for the turfgrass industry, the Rocky Mountain Turfgrass Foundation has awarded a \$40,000 grant to Colorado State University for turfgrass research.

"We are very impressed by Colorado State's dedication to turfgrass research, and our foundation wants to be a partner in that research," said Steve O'Neill, president of the foundation.

The grant was the result of fund-raising efforts by the Rocky Mountain Turfgrass Association and the Rocky Mountain Golf Course Superintendents' Association, which along with the Rocky Mountain Professional Lawn Care Applicators Association make up the foundation.



Pictured during presentation of \$40,000 research grant: (L to R) Ken Brink, head of horticulture department; Steve O'Neill, president of Rocky Mountain Turfgrass Foundation; Tony Koski, turf specialist; Bill Brown, extension plant pathologist; Merle Niehaus, dean of the College of Agriculture; and Whitney Cranshaw, extension entomologist. Photo courtesy: Colorado State University.

The grant is the first presented by the foundation to Colorado State. A portion of the funds will support a horticulture research assistant for Tony Koski, Colorado State Cooperative Extension turfgrass specialist. The money will also help fund turfgrass disease and pest research to be conducted by William Brown, extension plant pathologist, and Whitney Cranshaw, extension entomologist.

Brown is conducting research on turfgrass disease, including the development of environmentally compatible controls for snow mold fungi, a family of turf disease that affects Colorado golf courses. "The turfgrass industry contributes \$660 million to Colorado's economy," Brown said. "This grant enables Colorado State University to support that industry through research."

Cranshaw's research is aligned with that of Brown, and both are part of the integrated turfgrass management program. Cranshaw is studying nonchemical pest control and turfgrass pests of the Rocky Mountain region.

"We need a better overall understanding of the Rocky Mountain region's unique pests," Cranshaw stated. "Also, pesticides are a national concern. Natural controls for turfgrass pests have a great deal of potential."

In addition to nonchemical pest and disease control, the foundation is interested in funding research on water conservation in turfgrass areas and the development of grasses which can better survive Colorado's climate. "This grant represents a major step forward in the university's turfgrass research and instruction program," said Ken Brink, Colorado State horticulture department chairman.