

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

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



**Sports fields, such as this one at UCLA, are subjected to other stress, too, such as vehicular and foot traffic.**

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

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

*continued on page 32*



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## Buried Structures

continued from page 31

to other areas. He believes the material does what the company says it does — sticks together and becomes very structured. When in place it seems to work well.

The Netlon ATS installation tee has more traffic than the rest of the tee box, so direct comparison is difficult. The area had always been a problem. This was not the case this year.

At this point, Heacock could not say anything conclusively about any of the products, but he believes Netlon ATS has some possibilities and intends to do some more testing and monitor results over a longer period.

Mike Hurd, grounds superintendent for the Pittsburgh Pirates spring training facility at Pirate City in Bradenton, FL, reports a Netlon ATS profile plot has been installed on the one-half field at Pirate City. The plot extends from in front of home plate to the pitcher's mound and is at least ten feet wide. The team began playing on the field within two and a half weeks of the installation in late November and played on it every day for two weeks straight.

At this point, Hurd reports much better rooting in the test plot. The turf with Netlon ATS shows little or no damage visible, while the adjoining area just beyond the test shows visible divots and scarring.

The Netlon ATS has stabilized the sub-surface. Crew members drove equipment on it, made sharp turns and did everything else they could think of to test it, and they had no problems. The area also drains very well.

Hurd thinks Netlon ATS has definite potential in high-traffic areas, including such spots as around home plate, in front of the dugout, the on-deck circles and coaches boxes. In some of these areas clay could be replaced with grass for better aesthetics and reduced maintenance. He thinks the higher initial costs would be balanced by reduced overall long-term maintenance.

While the report cards are still being tallied, investigating possible solutions is the only way to solve problems. □

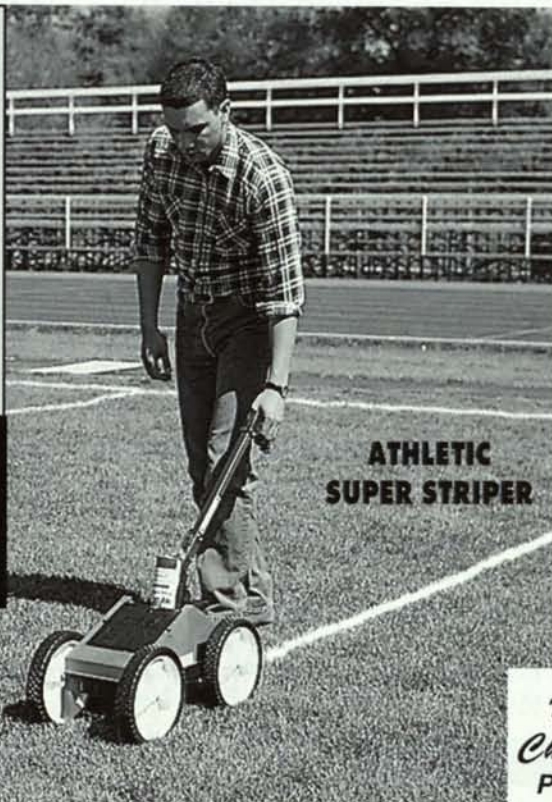
*Steve and Suz Trusty are the principals of Trusty & Associates, consultants to the horticultural trade, based in Council Bluffs, IA.*

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# HAPPENINGS

## 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 sub-surface 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 solicit potential sources to be included in the book. For more information, contact Dr. Keith J. Karnock, (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.

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# HAPPENINGS

city," reports Eleanor Ellison, GIE trade show manager. "Last year's show was no exception. Approximately 2,500 people 'shopped' the expo hall where nearly 300 exhibiting companies displayed their goods and services. That translates not only into a lot of dollars for the industry, but also for the local economy. After the 1993 show in Baltimore, GIE was rated the 14th largest convention to visit the city. It generated about \$4 million in revenue."

GIE '95 is scheduled for Fort Worth, TX, November 13-16. For more information, call Ellison, (404) 973-2019.

## Seminar and Playtime

"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.

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## Study Indicates Serendipitous Benefits

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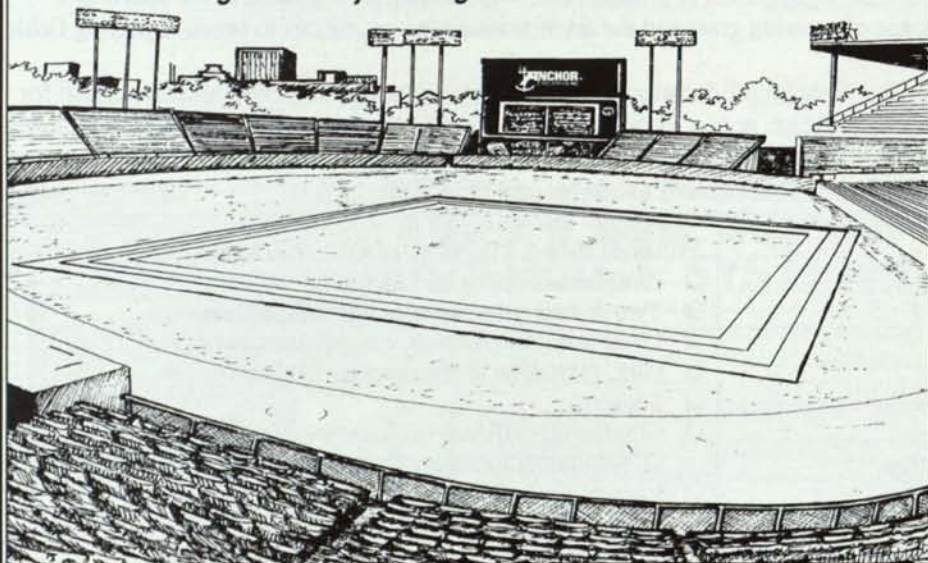
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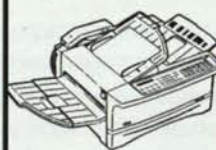
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# *The Symptom: Stumbling in the Dark*

## *The Diagnosis: Info Deficiency*

### *The Cure: ISA Membership*

*The International Society of Arboriculture is the largest and most influential arboricultural organization in the world. Today's ISA is • information • publications • people and • research . . . the cure for what ails you.*

**R** MONTHLY PUBLICATIONS  
ISA members are kept abreast of happenings in the tree care industry through two significant publications: *Arborist News* and the *Journal of Arboriculture*. Members receive both publications, free of charge, alternating bi-monthly giving information needed for peak performance in the workplace.

*Arborist News* is ISA's news-magazine—a colorful 48-page publication filled with interesting features and other articles concerning all aspects of the industry, events calendars, details on ISA programs and publications, news from and about chapters and members, and much, much more. Some features are followed by question sets which can qualify readers for Certification Continuing Education Units.

The *Journal of Arboriculture* contains the latest developments in scientific and educational information. It's full of papers written by top researchers and articles by leading arborists around the world.

#### **ISA BOOKS AND VIDEOS**

ISA publishes books covering a host of arboricultural subjects. Some of the titles include: *Arborists' Certification Study Guide*, *Tree Climbers' Guide*, *A Guide to the Plant Health Care Management System*, *Guide for Plant Appraisal*, *Arboriculture and the Law*, *Tree and Shrub Transplanting Manual*, *The Landscape Below Ground*, *A Photographic Guide to the Evaluation of Hazard Trees in Urban Areas*, *Trees and Overhead Electric Wires*, just to name a few. In addition, videos on a variety of subjects are available. Many of the above are available to members at discounted prices.

#### **ISA ARBORIST CERTIFICATION**

Over 5,100 arborists have taken advantage of ISA's Certification program since 1991. These arborists have found an educationally challenging program designed to upgrade their knowledge and proficiency levels—bringing the opportunity for learning, growth, and advancement which are significant factors in job satisfaction. Perspective employers see certification credentials as assurance that a candidate has qualifications that relate to the position.

#### **CONSUMER INFORMATION SERIES**

This program is designed to help consumers get off to the right start with planting considerations, and to heighten awareness that trees don't necessarily take care of themselves. Currently there are ten brochures in the series—professionally written, designed, and attractively printed in two colors. Answering a host of often-asked questions in easy-to-read terms without being too technical to understand, these brochures make exceptional public relations tools.

#### **ANNUAL ISA CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW**

The greatest educational experience of the year—lectures, seminars and meetings, plus interaction with exhibitors provide a feast of information to take back to the workplace and use. International Jamboree and Field Day provide competition between tree climbers and exhibitors alike. Spouse/guest and youth programs allow this conference to be a family affair. It's not just another meeting—It's an *event* that's informative, entertaining, fulfilling and inspiring.

#### **ISA RESEARCH TRUST**

Today's arborist needs more information in every area, from tree biology to cabling and bracing and all points in between. More knowledge means more research. The Research Trust works closely with professional arborists, foresters and utility companies to fund research that will benefit the industry and help to develop and maintain the urban forest. Funding comes from memberships, grants, donations and special event fund raisers. ISA is opening doors to accessing timely information through research that can promote the success of arborists and the profession as a whole.

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