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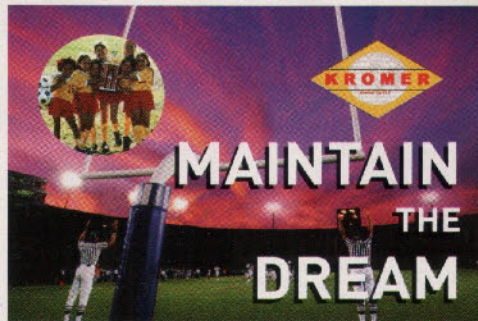
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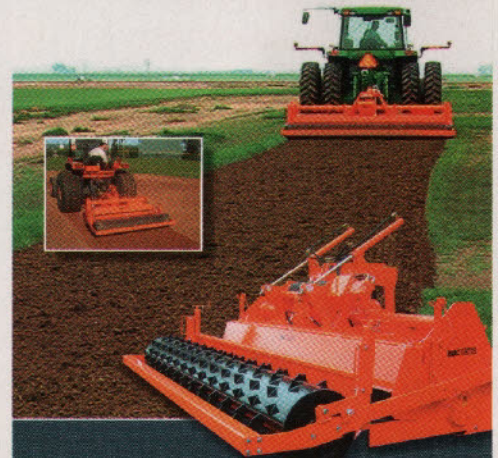
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Session LE02

Pesticides on Turfgrass

Jay Gan, Ph.D., University of California, Riverside
Bruce Kidd, Dow Agro Science

Maintenance of high quality sports turf, including golf courses, rely on the adequate use of pesticides in order to protect against pests, and restore the competitive balance in favor of the turf. This session will cover two facets of pesticides on turfgrass. One will be the fate of pesticides in the environment and strategies for minimizing pesticide runoff and offsite movement. The other will cover cultural and chemical practices for managing specific weeds in turfgrass with various stressful conditions. Examples will be drawn from golf courses and professional sports fields, all the way down to your children's beat-up soccer fields, with suggestions how you can help create and maintain a safer and better performing turfgrass.

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Session LE10

Evaluating and Amending Soil

Kent Kurtz, Ph.D., Calif. State Polytechnic Univ., Pomona
Dirk Muntean, Soil and Plant Laboratory, Inc

Maintenance of high quality sports turf, including golf There are many types of soils used for the construction and establishment of turfgrasses on sports fields. Poor soil physical properties and fertility imbalances reduce turf health, quality, and performance. Many potential problems can be solved by thorough examination and correction prior to turf planting. This session will provide the turf professional with a check list of potential problem areas that can be adjusted or corrected prior to turf installation by considering types of field materials or soils, pre-plant fertilizers, and organic amendments.

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Session LE13

Synthetic Infill vs. Natural Turf

A.J. Powell, Ph.D., University of Kentucky
Darren Gill, FieldTurf

The examination of construction, maintenance, renovation, repair and other costs for a natural grass field and synthetic infills including as testing for safety and performance. The differences between polyethylene yarn type synthetic infills and nylon non-infilled fields that have higher sports shoe traction test results and the ball bounce and rebound that closely resemble the performance of a natural field will be explored.

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Session LE23


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Efficient Irrigation Management for Sports Fields

Dave Minner, Ph.D., Iowa State University
Lynda Wightman, Hunter Industries

Learn why sprinklers have brown "doughnuts" around them in your turf! Why are some areas dry versus soggy right next to each other? What is the difference between "efficiency" versus "uniformity" in irrigation systems? How do we manage all of this?

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Continuing Education for Sports Turf Managers

Session LE22


Sponsored by STMA

Managing Healthy Sports Fields

Tom Samples, Ph.D., University of Tennessee
Paul Sachs, North County Organics

Many of today's new products and technologies can help sports turf managers maintain healthy, wear-resistant turfs. Timely mowing, fertilization, watering, aeration and pest control are fundamental. Learn that the vast majority of soil organisms are beneficial in a functioning ecosystem.

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Continuing Education for Sports Turf Managers

Session LE24


Sponsored by STMA

Developing an Aerification Program for Sports Fields

Trent Hale, Ph.D., Clemson University
Dale Getz, The Toro Company

Learn how aerification of both warm-season and cool-season turfgrasses are an essential part of a good sports field maintenance program. The primary benefit of core aerification is to alleviate soil compaction. However, there are many other benefits of a routine aerification program, including water infiltration, compaction relief, air exchange, seedbed preparation etc.

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CUT HERE

More bermuda in the outfield

BY DR. GRADY MILLER
Professor, University of Florida

Questions?
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or email gmillers@mail.ifas.ufl.edu.

Or, send your
question to
David Minner at
Iowa State University,
106 Horticulture Hall,
Ames, IA 50011
or email
dminner@iastate.edu.

Q: *On my baseball outfield, I have lots of common Bermuda, but would like more. I want to sow some seed this spring, but I don't want to plow it up and upset what I already have and we also want to continue playing on it. Can I aerate it real good, do some hand raking and sow the seed without plowing? Will I have any success this way? If we do decide to start from scratch this summer, what is the best way to seed it so it grows in fast? Thanks for your answer.*

Florida

A: Thanks for the e-mail. I regularly get questions relating to planting bermudagrass the way you have suggested. While this is not the ideal way to establish bermudagrass, it can be used to fill large bare areas. But I am not sure that it would be overly beneficial to do this just to strengthen a stand. In the southeast (especially Florida) with typical the late spring and summer conditions, you can grow bermudagrass pretty quickly. In fact, some people tell me that in the summer, by the time they finish mowing their fields they need to start over it has grown so much. Of course our summer heat and humidity may contribute to this phenomenon.

For weak turf areas and bare areas less than one foot in diameter, I generally recommend the areas

be grown in via well-timed additions of extra fertilizer and irrigation. The four things bermudagrass likes most are light, heat, nitrogen fertilizer, and water. Spot applications with a quarter to half pound of soluble nitrogen per thousand square feet every five to seven day for 2-3 weeks will really fill in the bermudagrass turf. As it begins to fill cut back on the fertilization rate.

Seeding into an existing bermudagrass stand and then trying to grow the grass from seed is a little counterpro-

ductive to effectively managing the existing bermudagrass. The newly sown seed needs to be kept moist for germination and early seedling growth. This requires frequent light irrigation to prevent drying. The more mature grass should be watered more deeply and infrequently. So you are really managing two different stages of growth. Water management for the germinating seeds and young seedlings is much more critical than the mature turf. If you err on the wet side and continue using the field, added soil moisture may cause some problems with field playability. I am not saying it cannot be done, but this will require a lot of your attention.

If you go this route, my suggestion would be to cut the turf as short as you can get away with at this time of year (and your conditions), put the seed out first and then not aerate too deeply. This may get more seed in contact with ground, which can improve germination. Dragging with a mat or rolling with a light weight roller afterwards also helps firm the seedbed, remove imperfections and aid germination. Keep the site reasonable moist. I think these practices will give you some assurance of success. And remember that bermudagrass likes nitrogen fertilizer so when it does come up, apply some fertilizer on a regular basis to keep it spreading.

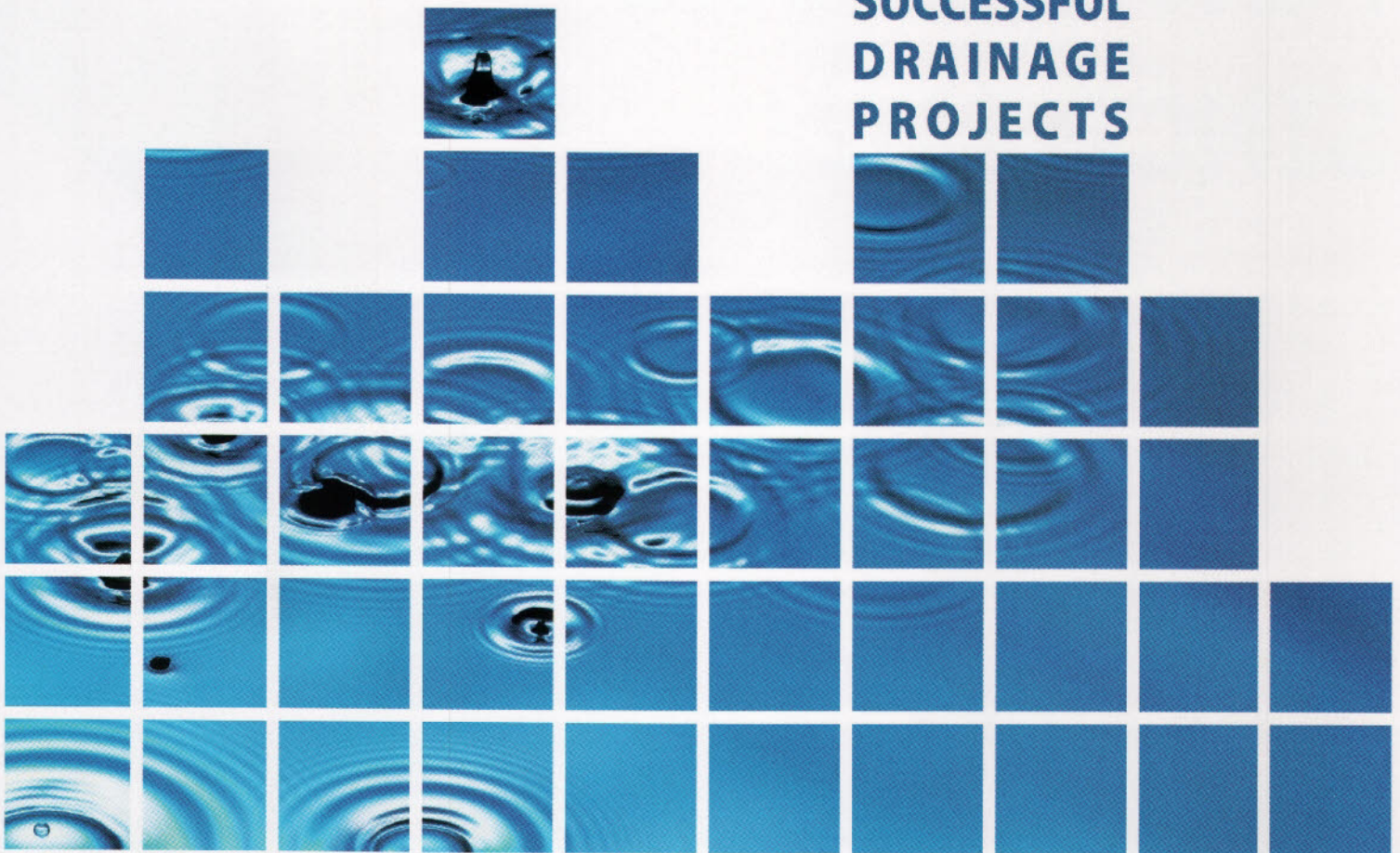
Now if you decide to go all out and start with a clean seedbed, I also have some suggestions. After preparing the seedbed, broadcast your seed with your spreader using the seed suppliers' recommended rate. I would then suggest that you carefully rake the seed into the soil using a leaf rake or three-wheeled sand rake. It would be helpful if you can lightly topdress with soil similar to your soil profile but most managers do not do this extra step. Lightly roll to improve seed-to-soil contact and remove surface imperfections.

I would highly recommend you using some kind of cover over the seed. Last year I had some experience with an erosion control mat/fabric called Futerra (product name mentioned as an example, not as an endorsement) and was very impressed with the difference between covered or not covered germination and early growth of bermudagrass from seed. There are a number of these mats on the market so I would suggest you investigate their feasibility. After last year, I am convinced they are a worthwhile investment for establishing from seed. They hold in more moisture that seems to increase germination time and the cover helps keeps the seeds in place when you get those summer thunderstorms. Good luck with your field. ■



Bermudagrass growth 30 days after seeding.

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