

CoverSports FieldSaver winter turf blankets/growth covers

FieldSaver covers protect turf from harsh winter conditions and promote faster spring growth and green-up. FieldSaver is a also a budget-saver. Josh Slayback, athletic fields technician for the City of Clayton, MO calculated the savings impact of FieldSaver:

"Winter turf blankets are an excellent investment, especially considering that sodding two 60'x60' soccer goal mouths each spring, over 8 years would cost over \$16,000. To purchase two 60'x60' winter turf covers, seed and preventative fungicide over 8 years (the life expectancy of CoverSports Winter Turf Blankets) costs an estimated \$2,500."

Shaw Park 2010 winter renovation plan: Core aerated 6 directions; seed with a turf type tall fescue/Kentucky bluegrass mix at 15# per 1000 ft²; apply granular preventative fungicide; cover goal mouths with winter turf blankets; run last irrigation cycle of the season. (See photo of before/after at Shaw Park, Clayton, MO, 2010.)

CoverSports USA



EVERGREEN turf blanket by COVERMASTER

Environmentally friendly, the EVERGREEN turf blanket is ideal to grow and maintain healthy grass. Made of recyclable material, it's the greenhouse effect of the special weave that greens up grass earlier in spring and maintains it longer in the fall. It also keeps fertilizer in place and reduces energy costs by retaining heat, especially on heated soil. EVERGREEN's unique coating process maintains the cover's integrity when using anchor pegs to hold the cover in place, thereby eliminating the need for hems and grommets. Yet it can easily be cut or shaped to fit any configuration. No wonder more than 90% of NFL and MLB teams rely on EVERGREEN.

COVERMASTER Inc.



New GreenJacket AFS insulation

We have been listening. While our foam insulation will still be available, we are answering the call for a better method to insulate and allow passive airflow under the GreenJacket. Visit www.greenjacket.com for more information. With sales associates across the United States, Canada from Winnipeg west and Europe, GreenJacket winter turf protection products have moved to the forefront of winter turf protection. You can "FIND A REP" in the menu bar or contact us directly at anytime. We invite you to look around the GreenJacket website to learn more about our impermeable and permeable covers, turf protection product(s), the tests that have been done, and trials that have utilized the GreenJacket as their winter protection method.

GreenJacket Turf Protection Systems



New shear strength tester from Turf-Tec

The new Turf-Tec Shear Strength Tester also known as a shear vane apparatus in scientific literature is a specially designed tool to test the stability of natural grass athletic field turfgrass root systems. In addition, the Turf-Tec Shear Strength Tester can also test the types and depth of cleats that will perform best in your particular turfgrass root system and environment. Knowing the correct cleat to play in will not only insure proper footing during play, but will also reduce slipping and may also create a safer playing environment for athletes.

The unique design of the new Turf-Tec Shear Strength Tester with the shear vane foot allows the turf stability to be tested to insure the health of the root system directly on athletic fields. The Turf-Tec Shear Strength Tester can also test different cleat designs and cleat depths to insure proper footing during play.

Turf-Tec International



I-Core 3.0 with built-in solar sync

Hunter Industries announced a major enhancement to the popular I-Core advanced irrigation controller, with the release of its 3.0 operating system. The controller now has built-in compatibility with the Hunter Solar-Sync climate sensor, allowing automatic self-adjustment for changing weather conditions. The new version of the I-Core controller features a Solar Sync dial position, and allows all sensor setup functions from the main control panel. The controller also permits a Solar Sync Delay feature, allowing the installer to specify a number of days before the controller switches to automatic adjustment mode. Version 3 I-Core controllers need only add a Solar Sync Sensor, or the increasingly popular wireless version of the sensor, to take full advantage of automated water saving technology. Each of the controller's 4 irrigation programs may be set to use the weather adjustment, or to run individually without automatic adjustment for special applications.

Hunter Industries



PBI-Gordon's Katana turf herbicide gets California registration

PBI-Gordon Corporation announced that its Katana Turf Herbicide received registration with the State of California Department of Pesticide Regulation, allowing its use as a spot treatment on residential lawns. Additionally, there are expanded use directions on professionally managed sports turf; previously, it had been approved only for "professionally managed college and professional sports fields". The herbicide had previously received EPA registration and been available in most southern and transition zone states. The labeling permits Katana to be used on professionally managed sports fields. Katana Turf Herbicide is part of PBI-Gordon's ProForm product line of fast-acting herbicides. Like other products in this line, Katana continues to work in cooler weather, and is not as temperature-dependent as competitive products. The herbicide is labeled for control of 58 weeds including sedges, grasses and broadleaf weeds with post-emergence and some pre-emergence activity.

PBI-Gordon

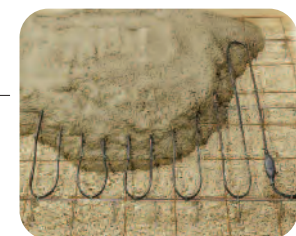


Sno*Melter cable kit keeps walkways clear of ice and snow

New Sno*Melter Cable Kits from EasyHeat are simple to install, energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly, offering safe, reliable snow melting throughout the winter months. In stock and available for immediate shipment, the dual-element, fixed-resistance cables are UL Listed and CSA Certified, and provide the simplest and safest method of winter protection for your home or business. When combined with an EasyHeat controller (sold separately), Sno*Melter Cable Kits are extremely cost effective and eliminate the expensive, labor-intensive hassles of snow removal by automatically maintaining a surface temperature above freezing.

Cable selection is easy, all you need to know is the amount of surface area that is to be cleared of snow. EasyHeat Sno*Melter Cable Kits are available in sizes that cover from 10 to 100 square feet with just a single cable.

Emerson



STMA introduces new membership incentives, referral rewards

STMA IS NOW OFFERING A NUMBER OF INCENTIVES to new members and a referral bonus program, both designed to help the association build on its continued growth.

New member benefits

New members, those individuals who have not been an STMA national member since 2000, are now eligible to receive a free conference registration (valued at \$375, to be used within 3 years) when they purchase an STMA membership. This new member offer is valid for the association's sports turf manager and commercial

categories, including individuals at the associate level (sports turf manager and commercial associates). Unfortunately, new affiliate and student members are not eligible for the free conference registration benefit.

Those members who joined in 2013, especially those individuals who signed up during the association's recent prorated dues promotion, are eligible for the free conference registration promotion if they renew for 2014.

To see if you qualify for the free conference promotion, please visit www.STMA.org or call the STMA office at 800-323-3875.

STMA referral rewards

All STMA members are eligible for the association's new referral rewards program. Any current member who refers a new qualifying individual that signs up for a membership will receive a \$100 voucher that can be used on a variety of items, including STMA merchandise, conference registration fees or membership dues. There is no limit to the number of new recruits a member can refer; he/she will receive the \$100 voucher incentive for each new person they refer who signs up.

Stay tuned for more details at www.STMA.org.

Register online for the STMA Conference... and more

ONLINE REGISTRATION for the annual STMA conference is now open. STMA members and non-members can easily register online for the upcoming conference, which is January 21-25, 2014 in San Antonio, TX. Just click on the Conference Brochure cover photo at STMA.org and follow the instructions to log in and register. In addition to online registration, STMA accepts registration forms that are faxed or mailed and purchase orders. Deadline to receive the early registration pricing discount is December 15.

Through STMA's online Shopping Cart, you can also renew your:

- 2014 STMA membership dues
- 2014 Chapter membership dues
- 2014 CSFM fees (this is a NEW payment option this year for certified members)

Look for the November issue of *SportsTurf* to hit your desk next month for all the advance conference coverage. This issue will highlight the education, activities and events that will be held at the 2014 conference.

Celebrate STMA's 25th Anniversary with keynote speaker Dr. Ricky Rigsby & get inspired!



Dr. Rick Rigsby. Photo by Lisa Nikole.

CELEBRATE STMA'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY in San Antonio with all the exceptional sessions, seminars, and workshops you've come to expect from the industry's premier sports field association. Explore the rich culture, cuisine and character of a city that has proven to be one of our nation's most endearing travel destinations and benefit from the ultimate learning event of the year!

Not to be missed will be the conference's keynote speaker, Dr. Rick Rigsby. Dr. Rigsby's presentation will

be entitled "Skills to Survive in the Future".

According to his biography: "Dr. Rick Rigsby is a favorite among audiences worldwide. Whether he is motivating financial giants on Wall Street or fifth grade teachers at an elementary school—Rick Rigsby encourages and empowers audience members to become great people who do great things.

"Born and reared in the San Francisco Bay Area, Rick graduated from college in 1978 with a degree in communications and a goal to be a network correspondent. Following a successful career as a television news reporter for a CBS affiliate in Northern California, Rick earned his Master's degree from California State University, Chico followed by his Doctorate from the University of Oregon. Graduate school was followed by two decades as a college professor, the past 14 years at Texas A&M University, where Rick also served as character coach and chaplain for the Aggies football team.

"Dr. Rigsby now devotes his full attention to empowering people worldwide, from presenting leadership principles in Nigeria to speaking to Fortune 500 companies in the Americas, Europe and Canada. In high demand among educational, business and service organizations and a favorite among professional sports organizations including the PGA and the National Football League, Rick offers common-sense wisdom to those desiring to rise to greater levels of excellence."

Webcast by Dr. Nick Christians on Fertility Management of Sand-based Fields

WHEN: Tuesday, November 5 at 11 a.m. EDT

Session: Fertility Management for Sand-based Systems

Speaker: Nick Christians, PhD

Registration:

- STMA Members: \$10 Members can register via this members' only link: (<http://stma.peachnewmedia.com/store/seminar/seminar.php?seminar=16619>).

- Nonmembers: \$20 Nonmembers can register here:

<http://stma.peachnewmedia.com/store/seminar/seminar.php?seminar=22105>.

Session information

The presentation will include some basic information on the soil chemistry of sand-based sports fields and will include a discussion on how to manage these areas most effectively.

The learning outcomes are:

- to provide an expanded knowledge of soil chemistry.

- to relate those basic concepts to sand-based soil media.

- to expand the knowledge of the attendee on ways of managing sand-based sports fields.

Speaker information

Nick Christians, PhD, is a university professor of horticulture at Iowa State University, Ames, IA. His area of specialization is turfgrass science. Nick received his PhD and MS degrees from Ohio State in Agronomy and his BS from the Colorado State University School of Forestry. Between earning his BS and MS degrees, Nick was employed as an assistant golf course superintendent at Flatirons Country Club in Boulder, CO and as a golf course superintendent in Pueblo, CO. He has several state and national awards for both teaching and research.

Additional information

This presentation was rated as one of the best at the 2013 conference (based on attendee

evaluations). Dr. Christians was rated as one of the best speakers at the conference (based on attendee evaluations). Some attendee comments regarding the session:

- "Excellent talk, well presented. A lot of basic fertility management that would be helpful for turf managers."

- "Keeps difficult material at an understandable level."

- "Speaker was excellent. Information was organized and easy to understand."

- "Very good coverage of all of the basics of elements, CEC, pH, pH (buffering)"

- "Probably best presentation I've been to. Dr. Christians is a very good presenter."

Dr. Christians is speaking again at the 2014 conference Friday, January 24 from 8:30-10 am - STMA 302 – Water Quality and Soil Conditions. The presentation will include basic information on principles of soil chemistry and water quality and how they relate to sports field management.

STMA Affiliated Chapters Contact Information

Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona: www.azstma.org

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association: www.cstma.org

Florida #1 Chapter (South): 305-235-5101 (Bruce Bates) or Tom Curran CTomSell@aol.com

Florida #2 Chapter (North): 850-580-4026, John Mascaro, john@turf-tec.com

Florida #3 Chapter (Central): 407-518-2347, Scott Grace, scott@sundome.org

Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association: www.gatewaystma.org.

Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association: www.gstma.org.

Greater L.A. Basin Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: www.stmalabasin.com.

Illinois Chapter STMA: www.ILSTMA.org.

Intermountain Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: <http://imstma.blogspot.com/>

Indiana - FORMING - Contact Clayton Dame, Claytondame@hotmail.com or Brian Bornino, bornino@purdue.edu or Contact Joey Stevenson, jstevenson@indyindians.com

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association: www.iowaturfgrass.org.

Kentucky Sports Turf Managers Association: www.kystma.org.

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Org. (KAFMO/STMA): www.kafmo.org.

Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA): www.mistma.org.

Minnesota Park and Sports Turf Managers Association: www.mpstma.org

MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association: www.mokanstma.com.

Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association: sphillips4@unlnotes.unl.edu

New England STMA (NESTMA): www.nestma.org.

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey: www.sfmanj.org.

Sports Turf Managers of New York: www.stmony.org.

North Carolina Chapter of STMA: www.ncsportsturf.org.

Northern California STMA: www.norcalstma.org.

Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA): www.ostma.org.

Oklahoma Chapter STMA: 405-744-5729; Contact: Dr. Justin Moss okstma@gmail.com

Oregon STMA Chapter: www.oregonsportsturfmanagers.org oregonstma@gmail.com

Ozarks STMA: www.ozarksstma.org.

Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers Association: www.pnwstma.org.

Southern California Chapter: www.socalstma.com.

South Carolina Chapter of STMA: www.sc-stma.org.

Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA): www.tvstma.com.

Texas Sports Turf Managers Association: www.txstma.org

Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association: www.vstma.org.

Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association: www.wstma.org.

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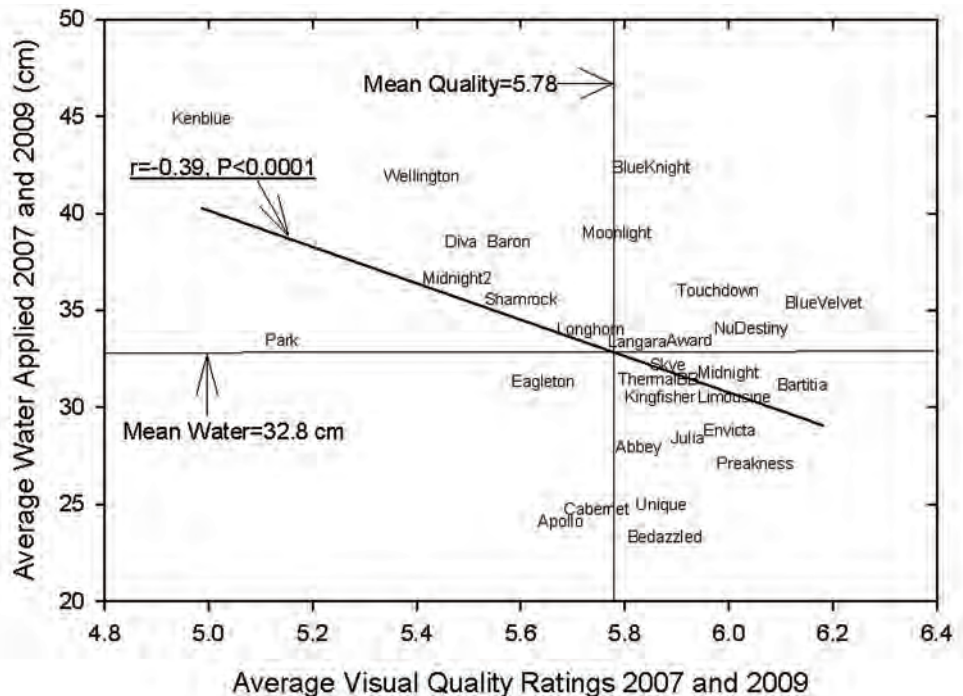
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Continued from page 16

As a group, the Compact Midnight types remained above a quality of six for longer than the Common as well as the BVMG types, but also received more water than the Compact America and Mid-Atlantic groups (Fig. 3).

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN WATER APPLIED AND VISUAL QUALITY

Ideally, cultivars or groups that require the least water would also have the highest visual quality. Those relationships are illustrated in the scatter biplot in Fig. 6, in which cultivars with the most favorable characteristics appear in the lower right section. In general, irrigation applications were greater in bluegrasses with poorer quality (Fig. 6, upper left section). This pattern probably resulted from improved cultivars with morphological properties that both enhanced turf quality and reduced evapotranspiration (water use). Such improved properties include compact or dwarfed growth habits, horizontal leaf orientation, and greater shoot density. All 15



▲ **Figure 6. WATER APPLIED TO KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS CULTIVARS AND HYBRID BLUEGRASSES** versus average visual quality ratings on a 1-9 scale with 9=optimum and 1=brown turf. Data were averaged over the periods June 19 - Oct. 1, 2007 (105 days) and June 22 - Oct. 7, 2009 (108 days).

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T School, College or University P Park
H Other (please specify) _____

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B MANAGER/SUPERINTENDENT — Superintendent, Landscape/Ground Maintenance Manager, Foreman, Supervisor
C GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL — Government Commissioner, Agent, Other Government Official
D SPECIALIST — Architect, Designer, Consultant, Agronomist, Horticulturist, Certified Specialist
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World Class Athletic Surfaces	21	www.worldclasspaints.com

bluegrasses with the lowest water applications were also ranked among those with the highest visual quality (Fig. 6; there were no statistical differences among cultivars with average visual quality greater than 5.5). The amount of water applied to these 15 cultivars with superior turf quality was also below the mean water applied to all 30 bluegrasses (32.8 cm). Similarly, visual quality in 12 of the 15 bluegrasses that received the least water was greater than the mean of all 30 bluegrasses (5.78), although all 15 were statistically similar.

In contrast to the 15 top performers, six cultivars were ranked within the group that received the most water and had the lowest visual quality (Fig. 6). Those six cultivars, which included Kenblue, Wellington, Midnight II, Baron, Diva, and Shamrock, had

neither the high visual quality nor low water requirement traits we were screening for in this study.

CONCLUSIONS

Cultivar selection in KBG had significant impacts on water requirements and visual quality ratings. Among cultivars, differences in seasonal water applications were as great as 21.6 cm and differences in days to 50% wilt between irrigations were as great as 6.7 days, nearly 1 week). Based on statistical range tests, only 15 of the 30 cultivars were in the group that both received the least water and had the greatest visual quality. Results indicated that, under conditions similar to those in our study, KBG in the Compact America and Mid-Atlantic phenotypic groups can be selected

for their lower irrigation requirements without sacrificing visual quality, and types from those two groups may represent the best selections for breeding efforts to achieve such goals. ■

Dr. Dale J. Bremer is associate professor, Dept. of Horticulture, Forestry and Recreation Resources, Kansas State University; Dr. Jason D. Lewis is assistant professor, Dept. of Horticulture & Crop Science, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. This article was reprinted with permission from Sports Turf Manager, Vol 26, No 1, Spring 2013.

This research was funded by United States Golf Association, Turfgrass Producers International, and the Kansas Turfgrass Foundation. The technical assistance of Tony Goldsby was greatly appreciated.

Soft water?



BY DR. DAVID MINNER

Professor, Iowa State University

Questions?

Send them to
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Or, send your
question to
Grady Miller at
North Carolina State University,
Box 7620, Raleigh, NC
27695-7620, or email
grady_miller@ncsu.edu.

We just got our practicefield in ground irrigation done this summer. I am wondering what your suggestion would be on how much and how often to water. Our grass is thin and worn in the high traffic areas and now the field has become quite hard. Our head coach would like to have it watered more to make it softer. What do you think about that idea?

Scott Danielson, assistant football coach, Lincoln HS, Washington, IA

This question basically asks should a hard field be watered to make it softer. My first rule is to always take whatever immediate steps are necessary to please the coach and make the field safer and more playable. So my short answer is yes, on dry and hard fields moisture can be increased to improve cleat penetration and reduce surface hardness. Most native soils with more than 60% silt+clay by weight increase in hardness as they dry.

In contrast, sand fields are usually firmer when wet and can become overly loose and unstable as the soil surface dries. Like many native soil fields with high clay content, the field at Lincoln High School can be made softer in such a way that playing quality of the surface and player performance is improved. With that being said it is a real art to get the moisture just right on the entire field so that traction is maximized.

This is another good example of why irrigation designers should carefully consider field use pattern when placing heads in a block

Practice fields are anything but uniform. Worn areas with exposed soil in the center can quickly turn to mud while grass areas outside the hash marks are getting just the right amount of water. This is another good example of why irrigation designers should carefully consider field use pattern when placing heads in a block. Whenever possible block high use areas separate from low use areas to get better control whether it is for establishing grass seed or watering hard areas to make them more player-friendly.

The upper limit for preferred running, diving, and falling on soccer fields is 80 Nm as measured by a 1 pound Clegg Impact device and most fully grassed fields I experience are below this limit if turf is watered to prevent severe wilting. Excessively dry bare soil areas of a field can easily exceed this limit.

Cleat penetration is also an important part of field playability. When cleats don't fully penetrate hard surfaces players feel a sense of skating on top of the surface that results in timid running. Sufficient grass cover reduces this problem since cleats can grip into the surface mat of roots and shoots. When there is no grass one way to immediately increase cleat penetration is to water the field. Solid tine aerification can also be used during the playing season to reduce hardness caused by hard dry soils.

The trick with watering bare soils is to allow sufficient time for surface drainage or drying because wet soils are easier to compact. So watering to soften a field can be a double-edged sword; yes, it increases cleat penetration and makes the field softer; but it also makes it easier to compact soils that in the long run just make the field harder. If your watering program and play-

ing schedule result in smearing of the soil surface or mud collecting on players shoes, then you need to back off with the watering. It will take some trial and error because zones that water both grassed and bare soil areas will likely be either over- or under-watered to achieve the desired effect of growing grass or softening the field. Use heavier doses of water when you have time to let the field drain and dry, i.e., water heavy on Friday since play won't start until Monday.

Managing the bare soil areas of a football field is a lot like managing the skin on a baseball field; sometimes it takes a good soaking to maintain moisture deeper in the soil profile so that as the soil surface dries moisture actually moves upward through the profile to keep the surface moist, and in this case softer for better play. Hard dry soils without grass cover are difficult to rewet with small doses of water. Wetting agents can also help moisture penetrate tight soils and reduce runoff that ultimately reduces field hardness.

The most encouraging message received from Scott was that they now have a new dedicated watering system that allows them to control the moisture whether it is for growing grass or managing the hardness of the dirt. It also affords them the opportunity to start with a sand topdressing program because they now have irrigation. Without irrigation sand topdressing is not an option. So the short answer is yes irrigation can temporarily be used to reduce field hardness, but the more permanent fix is to use your new irrigation system along with sand topdressing, aerification, and repeated seeding to provide continuous turf cover that adds cushion to the field. ■

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