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When it comes to “Green Roofs” Chicago tops the list!

Chicago, Illinois, USA, leads the way with green roofs cooling the city. In 2000, Mayor Richard M. Daley initiated the construction of a green roof at City Hall. By 2008, more than 450 green roofs were either in place or under construction in the city, making Chicago the number one green-roofed city in the United States.

Like many other American cities, Chicago is addressing the urban heat island effect, common in major cities where building surfaces are dark-colored. A heat island is an area that is significantly hotter than its surroundings. Urban heat islands cause overheating of cities during the summer, leading to pollution and increased energy consumption from cooling and air conditioning. The condition occurs due to the use of concrete and asphalt in the city. Green roofs are one way of minimizing the problem.

Chicago realized the effectiveness of green roofs, when a team of scientists flew over the city in a police helicopter in 2007. Thermal cameras were pointed to the county building with a regular black rooftop where the temperature measured more than 104

degrees Fahrenheit (40 degrees Celsius). When the same cameras were focused on Chicago’s City Hall, with its green roof, the temperature only measured 69.8 degrees Fahrenheit (21 degrees Celsius).

Chicago now has more than 450 green roofs either in place or under construction; these include schools, fire stations, museums, etc. Mayor Richard M. Daley has promoted green roofs vigorously and developed a series of policy programs to get the private sector and civilians to acquire green roofs.

According to Sadhu Johnston, Chief environmental officer at the Chicago Mayor’s office, green roofs are the way to go when it comes to saving energy. Not only do green roofs cut down energy bills on cooling but they also cut down energy bills on heating, due to the plants’ ability to reflect heat and provide insulation, thereby conserving both heating and cooling energy.

The Associated Press reported that Chicago, Washington D.C., and Baltimore are among the cities in the U.S. with the most green roofs installed.

Chicago’s City Hall—before and after green roof transformation



BEFORE



AFTER

Hi! I'm from the EPA and I'm here to help you.



From: Irrigation & Green Industry – November 17, 2010

Study Reconfirms Exorbitant Costs of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Water Mandates

More than \$3 billion to \$8.4 billion dollars per year for the next 30 years --that's the estimated economic impact of the EPA's water mandates, according to a new independent economic analysis performed by Cardno ENTRIX on behalf of the Florida Water Quality Coalition.

Another study by Carollo Engineers and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection reconfirms the significant financial impact the EPA water mandates will have on Florida's employers and consumers. The study specifically analyzed the economic impact of the EPA mandates for a subsection of the rule, which took effect November 14th, which focused only on lakes, rivers and streams in Florida.

The analysis clearly shows that the costs of the EPA mandates will have a significant financial impact on Florida's employers and consumers. The findings of the Cardno ENTRIX

analysis echo the cost projections produced by Carollo Engineers and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Costs will vary according to the unique circumstances of individual utilities, with total project costs of this first portion of the rule expected to be between \$4.2 billion and \$6.7 billion for the affected utilities. For customers of these affected utilities, the typical increase in customer charges is expected to range from \$570 to \$990 per household each year.

"The analysis performed by Carollo Engineers of the EPA mandates clearly shows Floridians will be paying more for their monthly utilities bill because of the Washington mandates," said Paul Steinbrecher, president of the Florida Water Environment Association Utility Council. "We are especially concerned that EPA's very costly

program will not have greater benefits than the state's existing nutrient control program, which is making great progress."

The EPA mandates for lakes, rivers and streams were scheduled to take effect in Florida on November 14, while the EPA mandates for Florida's canals, coastal waters and estuaries have been delayed until August 2012. By the time both sets of mandates are implemented, Carollo Engineers estimates the cost to Florida wastewater treatment utilities will be between \$25 billion and \$50.7 billion in capital costs, and up to \$1.3 billion per year in additional operating costs.

EPA Response:

EPA officials say critics' cost estimates are wildly exaggerated. The EPA puts the cost at \$130 million to \$200 million a year, not the billions claimed by opponents.

TurfSide-UP

The owner of Daisy the cow became suspicious when he began seeing perfectly formed crop circles and unusual designs on his lawn. - J. Novak



Mooing The Lawn



Prime Minister Vladimir Putin

Is someone PUTIN us on?

As this issue of the TPI E-Newsletter was going to print there were reports circulating on the Russian Internet (as reported by AFP—Agence France-

Presse) claiming that turfgrass seed with the image of Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and the slogan "Get Ready for the 2018 World Cup" had gone on sale in a Russian supermarket.

It was also reported that Dmitry Peskov, a Putin spokesman, told the "Moskovsky Komsomolets" newspaper that he was looking into the reports but that the Russian prime minister never authorized the use of his image.

The newspaper says the bags of seeds were probably put on sale immediately after Russia was awarded the rights to stage the 2018 World Cup earlier this month -- a campaign spearheaded by Putin.

Ilona Raskolnikova of Newsinfo, Pravda RU reported, "We contacted the store, where the lawn grass was seen to find out if Putin's grass



Is the above image real, or is it a fake that fooled the media?

exists in reality. Spokespeople for the store administration laughed in response to the question. They said that they had never had "Putinskaya" lawn grass in stock. 'This is some kind of a joke. I need hardly say that selling a product with Putin's photo on it is unreal. We've had many calls from people asking about it, but we do not know what to answer. There is no grass,' a store manager said."

http://english.pravda.ru/russia/politics/09-12-2010/116126-putin_lawn_grass-0/

Where in the world is
TPI represented?
EVERYWHERE!

An on-going series featuring photos and copy
from TPI member websites.



Stewartsturf Ltd
Kinross, Scotland

www.stewartsturf.com

Stewartsturf is a family run business dedicated to turf management. We have been supplying greenkeepers, groundsmen, landscapers and gardeners with premium products since 1894. We currently cultivate turfgrass on 800 acres on some of the finest soils in Scotland. The company is a fourth generation family business and we constantly strive to raise our standards, both of our turf and our services.

As one of the nation's largest turfgrass growers, we operate out of three dedicated turf farms ensuring our customers receive the strongest, freshest turf throughout the year. We have a diverse customer base including national house builders, landscapers, councils, developers, private gardeners, sports ground facilities and golf clubs. While turf is a key part of our business so too are the soil blends, soil improvers and fertilizers we manufacture. We also carry a huge range of excellent products carefully selected over the years to fulfill the needs of our customers.



From family lawns
to outstanding playing
surfaces, Stewartsturf
has been dedicated to
turf care since 1894.

Our team comes from a variety of backgrounds, greenkeepers, groundsmen, landscapers, and farmers. All bring their unique core skills, together with sales, accountancy, IT, manufacturing and logistics. Our superb team is devoted to finding effective, good value solutions for your needs.

Customers are our key stakeholders and we never lose sight of the need to continually strive to meet their needs. Times change but our long standing core values of integrity, honesty, value and trust have allowed us to successfully serve our markets for over 116 years.



Holiday Greetings

During this special time of the year family and friends come together to celebrate the season and recall fond memories of holidays past and present with loved ones. It is a time to rekindle old acquaintances, reflect on that which is most precious to us, and share our joy with those we hold most dear.

Wherever your travels may find you; be it in the comfort of your own home or in the home of friends or family, the entire staff at *Turfgrass Producers International* wishes you the very best and extends our warm wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year to you and yours.

An often overlooked expense associated with artificial turf - - VANDALISM

The cost of an artificial sports field is sobering even during the best of times, but it should be all the more so at a time when school budgets are tight and small communities and big cities alike are struggling to make ends meet. In addition to the initial investment which in itself is staggering, there's the cost of proper maintenance and equip-

ment. The truth is, artificial fields aren't maintenance free, they require due diligence and care. But there's another often overlooked expense and that's the consequence of damaged caused by vandalism. The following are just a few examples of an unexpected expense that key decision-makers seldom consider until it's too late.

PEARL, Mississippi -- Vandalism at two area high schools cause extensive damage to a Pearl High School's new artificial football field.

GOSHEN TOWNSHIP, Ohio -- Two teenagers are accused of vandalizing the football field at Goshen High School.

EAST HAMPTON, New York -- Police in East Hampton have no suspects identified in the scorched branding of a 60 x 20 foot dollar sign to the East Hampton High School football field. Police reported that the defacement came with a typed five-page letter left in an envelope at the scene that cited the town's budget woes.

Oregon State University -- Officials report fire damage caused by vandalism to the artificial turf field at Oregon State University's Reser Stadium.

PETAL, Mississippi -- Vandals spray-painted on part of a 7 million dollar football stadium's artificial turf.

STAMFORD, Connecticut -- A small fire consisting of several old tires and dry tree limbs damaged a portion of the synthetic turf football field at Westhill High School.

MELTON, Victoria, Australia -- A rectangular section of synthetic grass measuring approximately 33 ft by 9 ft was stolen from Kurunjang Recreational Reserve's playing surface. They have now increased security and the police have stepped up patrols around the synthetic playing surfaces."

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina -- Charlotte-Mecklenburg police are looking for the people who cut several pieces of turf from the football field at Ardrey Kell High School.

ANN ARBOR, Michigan -- University of Michigan police are seeking suspects after someone cut a piece of the block 'M' from the football field at Michigan Stadium in Ann Arbor.

EUSTACE, Texas -- Two individuals have been charged for causing somewhere between \$350,000 to \$400,000 in damage to the three year old FieldTurf surface at Eustace High School.

LEHI, Utah -- Five Westlake High School football players were arrested after police say they were spotted vandalizing their rival's football field in nearby Saratoga Springs, Utah.



BALTIMORE COUNTY, Maryland has a solution - - YEAH, WE KNOW THINGS ARE TIGHT . . . But can you spare another half million dollars?

Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks officials hope that a plan to install video surveillance cameras at 13 athletic fields around the county will prevent the artificial turf fields from being damaged by vandals. So far, two of the fields -- at Seminary Park, in Lutherville, and at Lansdowne High School -- have been vandalized.

In all, there are 13 artificial fields sprinkled throughout the county. The \$13 million the county has spent on the fields since 2007 amounts to a significant investment in athletic fields. In order to protect that investment, the department will spend about \$500,000 to install state-of-the-art cameras to monitor the fields when the parks are closed.

For these and other stories on artificial turf vandalism visit: <http://www.synturf.org/>

Educating dealers contributes to the growth of the turfgrass industry worldwide

Keswick, Ontario is a small town located on Lake Simcoe which is known for starting it all. The first sod harvester was produced in the quiet community, and the turf industry has been booming ever since. On the last week of September 2010 visitors from all around the world came to Keswick. The occasion, Kesmac/ Brouwer held their 2010 Dealer meeting.

Many dealers expressed interest in attending a dealer meeting even during slow economic times. Gerry Brouwer feels it's essential to keep dealers investing in their future, as well as motivated, encouraged and optimistic. Therefore, Gerry and Eric Brouwer decided to hold the meeting which was attended by some twenty representatives who were eager to expand their knowledge and their businesses. In addition to representatives from the U.S. and Canada there were attendees from Spain, Italy, the UK and Australia. The international market was represented from eager dealers excited to be a part of contributing to the growth of the industry. The Brouwer's acknowledge that international markets are quickly gaining relevance. In the past, many of the international markets have lacked the crucial resources to be successful, but this is all changing. Bringing dealers to Canada, educating them, and providing them with resources to cut sod faster and more efficiently has helped to quickly expand markets.

Every staff member of the company participated in the meeting. Dealers were taken on a tour of the plant and office and were pleased with all the friendly faces and helpful information.



Eric Bouwer (at podium) during class session

The first day was primarily "in class" and each dealer listened attentively. Topics discussed included strategies which would allow dealers to provide continued support services, understand warranty issues and expand their knowledge of products. All deemed important during hard economic times. Dinner followed the session and indoor golfing allowed dealer's to get better acquainted with one another. They shared their knowledge of the business and offered each other tips and advice.



Gerry Bouwer (top right) during field session

Dealers walked away with new perspectives as well as a few new friends.

The final day of the meeting was spent in the field. Although it was a brisk September day, attendees were in high spirits and very impressed with what they saw. Educators from Kesmac Brouwer spent time with each individual, demonstrating and discussing each piece of equipment with automatic harvesters as the main

focus. The market for automatic harvesters is rapidly growing and dealers are well aware of the importance. By providing education on these automatic machines it allows dealers to provide tech support in their areas.

It wasn't just the dealers who were educated in this process. Kesmac Brouwer engineers used the opportunity to listen to the individual needs of each dealer. Crucial information



Kesmac Brouwer dealers viewing equipment

such as pallet configuration, roll size and suggestions from each area allows the company to better understand the needs of dealers; by doing this, changes can be made and equipment can expand to become the most efficient for each dealer.

All in all the meeting was a tremendous success. Dealers left with a positive attitude and an eagerness to expand their business knowledge. It was Kesmac/Brouwer's pleasure to be a part in contributing to the turfgrass industry worldwide.

Submitted by: Kylie Goodwin
Sales and Marketing Co-ordinator
Kesmac/ Brouwer

SEND US YOUR STORY

TPI members are encouraged to send ideas, stories and photos to the TPI E-Newsletter so we can share them with our readers. If you have a story you would like to share please contact Jim Novak - jnovak@TurfGrassSod.org.

Another benefit of natural turfgrass lawns that may surprise you!

A recently released 6-page publication titled, **“Home Gardens and Lead—What You Should Know about Growing Plants in Lead-Contaminated Soil”** was recently brought to our attention. The publication was a joint effort of Dr. Arthur Craigmill, University of California Cooperative Extension Environmental Toxicology Specialist, UC Davis and Dr. Ali Harivandi, University of California Cooperative Extension Environmental; Horticulture Advisor, San Francisco Bay Area.

Of interest is the fact that while lead occurs in low levels in all soils, natural concentrations expressed in most soils range from 10 to 30 parts per million (ppm); recent studies however show that the lead content of some urban soils may range from 100 ppm to over 1,000 ppm. The elevated lead concentrations in soils in urban areas are often directly related to their distance from highly traveled roads and older buildings painted with lead-based paints. Houses close to freeways and other highly traveled roads, or located in industrialized zones may have soil lead concentrations in excess of 1,000 ppm. And soil next to older buildings painted with lead-based paint that is flaking, or has been scraped or blasted, may have lead concentrations exceeding 3,000 ppm according to the published report.

The health hazards associated with lead are well documented, but what’s the solution in those areas that score high in soil lead content? While the publication offers several suggestions one in particular caught our attention — *“It is a good idea to grow ground cover such as turfgrass, low growing ceanothus, bearberry, or lantana over lead-contaminated soil to reduce the amount of lead contaminated soil and to reduce the amount of lead-laden soil dust that can become airborne with windblown topsoil.”*

NOTE: TPI would like to express our thanks to Dr. Ali Harivandi for bringing this publication to our attention.



The publication goes on to state that *“maintaining a dense stand of ground cover (lawns, etc.) that covers the soil entirely reduces dust and mud problems and lowers the risk of lead inhalation significantly.”*

To access a copy of this **FREE** publication you can download by clicking on the link below:

<http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/pdf/8424.pdf>

Home Gardens and Lead

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Don't know a whatchamacallit from a thingamajig? It's okay ... you're not alone!



Turfgrass producers, like so many other businesses, have come to rely on computers to conduct their day-to-day operations. But when it comes to computers some of us are more knowledgeable than others and many of us have to rely on someone else to deal with new hardware decisions, selecting software programs or dealing with those unexpected glitches that might suddenly arise.

If you're not familiar with the meaning of some basic computer-related terms you can be at a slight disadvantage, especially when you're trying to communicate problems or issues with a service representative or others who are a bit more computer savvy than you are. Trying to address a problem when you don't know what certain terms mean, (i.e., URL, Firewall, Malware, Cache, RAM, CPU, HTTP and Defrag) can prove frustrating.

If you are unfamiliar with some basic computer terms, be assured you're not alone, there are a good number of computer users who don't know and often won't admit what they don't know.

The following definitions, although brief, may prove helpful:

URL: A term for an Internet Address, it stands for Uniform Resource Locator. URLs are the website addresses that you use to surf the web such as:
<http://www.turfgrassod.org>.

Firewall: A firewall is often part of a network of computers that allows certain communications to get through while blocking others. Think of a firewall as a

security guard that prevents unwanted visitors from entering your computer.

Adware: Adware is free software that is supported by advertisements. Common adware programs are toolbars that sit on your desktop or work in conjunction with your Web browser. They include features like advanced searching of the Web or your hard drive and better organization of your bookmarks and shortcuts. Although most adware is safe to use, some can serve as spyware, gathering information about you from your hard drive, the Web sites you visit, or your keystrokes. Spyware programs can then send the information over the Internet to another computer. So be careful what adware you install on your computer.

Malware: Malware is a catch-all phrase for viruses, adware and Trojans, which can cause damage to your computer. The best way to prevent malware from infecting your system is to regularly update your anti-virus program.

Cache: Your web cache stores all your web browsing info. You should clear your cache every so often to free up space on your hard drive and help protect your privacy.

RAM: Random-access memory (RAM) is a type of computer memory. "RAM is memory, and hard drive is space. Users often confuse the two. One tech expert used the following analogy to explain RAM: Think of your computer as a room. RAM is the height of the room, and the hard drive space is the square footage of the room. The greater the ceiling height (RAM), the

easier it is to move items (programs) around the floor (hard drive)." When you receive messages that your computer is low on memory, it's usually time to add more RAM.

CPU: The Central Processing Unit (or more commonly, processor) is basically your computer's 'brain,' which processes all the information. *About.com* sums it up best by saying that the CPU "is responsible for interpreting and executing most of the commands from the computer's hardware and software."

HTTP and HTTPS: HTTP, or hypertext transfer protocol, is the standard prefix used for website addresses. HTTPS (Hypertext transport protocol secure), on the other hand, signals that the website you have visited is secure. When browsing bank, credit card or shopping websites online, for example, look for 'HTTPS' before entering any sensitive information.

Defrag: Your computer's hard drive might be compared to a library. As you add, delete and move files back and forth the files (books on the shelf) eventually become scattered all over the place, rather than being neatly lined up on the drive (the book shelf). To maximize your computer's efficiency and speed it is recommended that you periodically "defrag" your hard drive so all the files can be accessed easier.