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Volume 3 Issue 5

May 2010

But what has TPI done for me lately?



When it seems that your back's against the wall; how do you view the world around you and those who are trying to help you?

When you consider the current economic situation are you overcome by seemingly endless obstacles, or do you see tremendous opportunities? There's no denying that one point of view can overshadow the other. Depending on your level of enthusiasm, or the degree of your frustration, it's not uncommon to either blame someone else for your perceived predicament or thank someone for their effort in helping you fulfill whatever your goal might be. It's all really a state of mind.

What brought this observation to the forefront was an e-mail Turfgrass Producers International recently received from a former TPI member (2007) in which he expressed some frustration and wanted to know what TPI was doing to help the turfgrass industry. He specifically wanted to know what if anything we were doing in Washington D.C. We found it interesting that although he was no longer a TPI member he was still curious about our efforts.

TPI's executive director, Kirk Hunter took the time to respond to the writer's inquiry and we thought it would be worthwhile to share Kirk's response.

"Having read your email, I am very interested to hear your reaction to my statements that follow regarding TPI's efforts and accomplishments in Washington.

In March, I traveled to Washington D.C. on two separate occasions to represent TPI and the turfgrass industry. Through the National Turfgrass Federation (NTF), TPI and our coalition partners have proven our ability to inform representatives in Washington, federal government officials and various agencies of the importance of the turfgrass industry and what we provide to both the economy and the environment.

These efforts have enabled us to secure funding for basic turfgrass research, influence legislatures to include turfgrass as a Specialty Crop for funding, and so on. With its coalition of members representing virtually all segments of the turfgrass industry, the NTF is well positioned to enhance our efforts to provide scientific-based information and delivering said information to the right decision-makers.

By providing more information on the needs of the turfgrass industry, we have increased the visibility and credibility of our industry at the federal level. In so doing, TPI continues to help turfgrass producers worldwide in tackling various challenges while capitalizing on existing and future opportunities.

Continued on page 2

But what has TPI done for me lately? (Cont'd from page 1)

Summary of our efforts and accomplishments:

- TPI and our coalition partners have secured approximately \$1 million per year for USDA Agriculture Research Service (ARS) to do basic turfgrass research on drought tolerance, salt tolerance and other turfgrass characteristics. ARS has access and can import grasses with valuable traits from almost anywhere outside the U.S. that other breeders may not have access to. The results of any such research can benefit all members worldwide.
- TPI has been successful in getting turfgrass defined as a Specialty Crop. In the past, turfgrass has been neither food nor fiber and now we have an identity and eligibility for Specialty Crop research grants and marketing block grants. The federal government has appropriated approximately \$50 million per year for three years. One turfgrass study has been approved thus far — (Increasing the Economic and Environmental Sustainability of Sod Production Using Biosolids).
- Several states (North Carolina, Texas, etc.) have been awarded turfgrass (Specialty Crop) marketing funds ranging from \$20-\$100 K. These funds are used for billboards, radio commercials, educational materials and more to market and promote the use of turfgrass sod to consumers.
- TPI also works with regulatory agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to make sure that turfgrass is represented fairly, based on scientific research. For example, EPA has a national program called WaterSense that has an option to limit turfgrass to 40% of the landscape. You and I both know that there are areas such as Phoenix, Arizona or



Las Vegas, Nevada, etc., where this approach may work, but it is not acceptable for a nation-wide program. We are trying to get the EPA to utilize an overall landscape water budget approach based on Evapotranspiration (ET) rates rather than just limit the use of turfgrass lawn area.

- While representing turfgrass in Washington, we also stress the many benefits of turfgrass (Environmental, Economic and Community) and in so doing, we have stressed the importance of and encouraged the use of natural turfgrass on the National Mall as it is viewed as “America’s Front Lawn.”

TPI is focused, committed and working effectively to make a difference on numerous issues that impact all of us, and at the same time, we are exploring the many opportunities that can benefit all of our members and the green industry.

Your opinion and concerns are important to us and we thank you for taking the time to express your feelings. It is our hope that you will reconsider your membership in TPI and support our efforts.

Best Regards,
T. Kirk Hunter
Executive Director
Turfgrass Producers International



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The only thing asphalt and turfgrass have in common is **IGNORANCE**



Some influential people in high places actually think an asphalt covered highway, driveway or parking lot can be compared to turfgrass when it comes to storm water runoff and erosion.

During a recent home owner's association meeting in a relatively new development outside of Chicago a representative from the County was scheduled to appear before the group. She was there to propose that turfgrass lawns be partially removed and replaced with native plants. Her explanation for what would be a costly endeavor had nothing to do with water use, but as she put it, to help prevent soil erosion problems caused by the turfgrass. She went on to add that "Turfgrass lawns are just like asphalt when it comes to water runoff and they are a major cause of erosion." She made these persuasive comments with authority and conviction.

Those in attendance listened attentively and were somewhat surprised at what they didn't know or thought they knew. As she continued her presentation she informed the audience that turfgrass lawns only have roots that are a little more than an inch deep whereas some of the native plants she was proposing have roots that can go down as much as fifteen feet and that's why they are much better at preventing erosion.

When she finished her presentation she invited questions from the

audience. One individual in attendance thanked her for her time but questioned the facts she presented regarding turfgrass. He specifically questioned two areas - - the root depth and composition of turfgrass and her statement that turfgrass causes erosion and it's no better than asphalt when it comes to storm water runoff. She advised him that her source was the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*.

He proceeded to point out that warm season grasses such as Bermudagrass have roots that can grow to a depth of six feet or substantially more depending on the soil profile characteristics. He added that cool season grasses, such as those in the Midwest can, depending on the variety, have roots that can go down anywhere from one foot to six feet or more depending on soil conditions and the variety. He added that the root system of warm and cool season turfgrasses is extremely fibrous and consists of many thin, branched roots which occupy a large volume of soil around the plant's base and since they grow relatively close to the soil surface they are effective at controlling soil erosion. He also cited research reporting that although the roots of turfgrasses generally aren't as deep as the roots of prairie plants, their higher plant density affects infiltration, decreases water runoff and increases water percolation.

He concluded by stating that research shows turfgrass is one of the best, if not the best, method of preventing storm water runoff and controlling erosion. As for any proposed native plants, he suggested there be some sensitivity on the part of the homeowners and the governing board to ensure any modifications in the landscaping take into consideration both

the environmental and cosmetic consequences of their decision. Native grasses will not resolve the erosion issue but proper slopping and sufficient top soil covered with turfgrass would certainly help.

After concluding his remarks the guest speaker said she would like to see his sources. Much to her surprise he proceeded to distribute numerous turfgrass and erosion-related research reports from various scientific studies. These were then distributed to the guest speaker, the board of directors and those homeowners in attendance. Soon thereafter the guest speaker departed.

The "he" in this story happened to be Jim Novak, TPI's Public Relations Manager. Because he knew the guest was scheduled to speak about turfgrass and "soil erosion" he had prepared handouts to support her presentation, never thinking they would be used instead as a rebuttal to gross misinformation.

This story illustrates how individuals in positions of considerable influence, such as a county, city or village representatives can unintentionally present misleading information that can influence the decisions of others. When such situations present themselves, someone needs to speak-up and set the record straight.

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Dr. James B. Beard Professor Emeritus,
Texas A&M University

* We could not find any documentation that suggests anyone associated with the EPA has ever stated that turfgrass is a contributor to storm water runoff, causes soil erosion or only has a root depth of an inch or less.

— Jim Novak

TurfSide-UP



Images courtesy of Telegraph.co.uk

THE MOWNA LISA

A little over a year ago a resident in the London borough of South Croydon woke up one morning and came up with an idea she thought might be interesting; she wanted an art masterpiece created on her lawn. Not just any masterpiece mind you, but Da Vinci's Mona Lisa.

The resident in question was one Tania Ledger. Determined to see her artistic fantasy become a reality, she proceeded to search out an artist who could handle the challenge. We're not sure how she tracked down the right person for the job but she did.

Taking some basic garden tools and a lawnmower, 3D Art Expert Chris Naylor was hired by Tania to turn her South London lawn into something uniquely different.

Working with natural turfgrass as his canvas Naylor carefully prepared the surface and trimmed the blades of grass like a master craftsman and artist extraordinaire. Over the course of two days the woman with the mystic smile materialized and Tania's lawn became a living piece of art that would probably have amused Da Vinci himself.

The "Mowna Lisa" as it had been dubbed, grew out in a couple of weeks, but up until then Ms. Ledger had a backyard that featured one of the most recognized paintings in history.

NOTE: Naylor earned his reputation by reconstructing the painting of the Mona Lisa for the film "The Da Vinci Code" and is a *Trompe d'oeil* expert, using techniques of light, shadow and texture to fool the eye into thinking a painting is three dimensional.

Ad promoting Turfgrass Producers International featured in the April issue of TURF magazine.

TURF magazine which serves Lawn and Landscape Professionals featured a complimentary ad for TPI in their April edition. As the only national industry publication with region editorial it's a great way to increase awareness of TPI nationwide. It should also be noted that TURF recently became a member of TPI under the name Moose River Media.

Visit their website:

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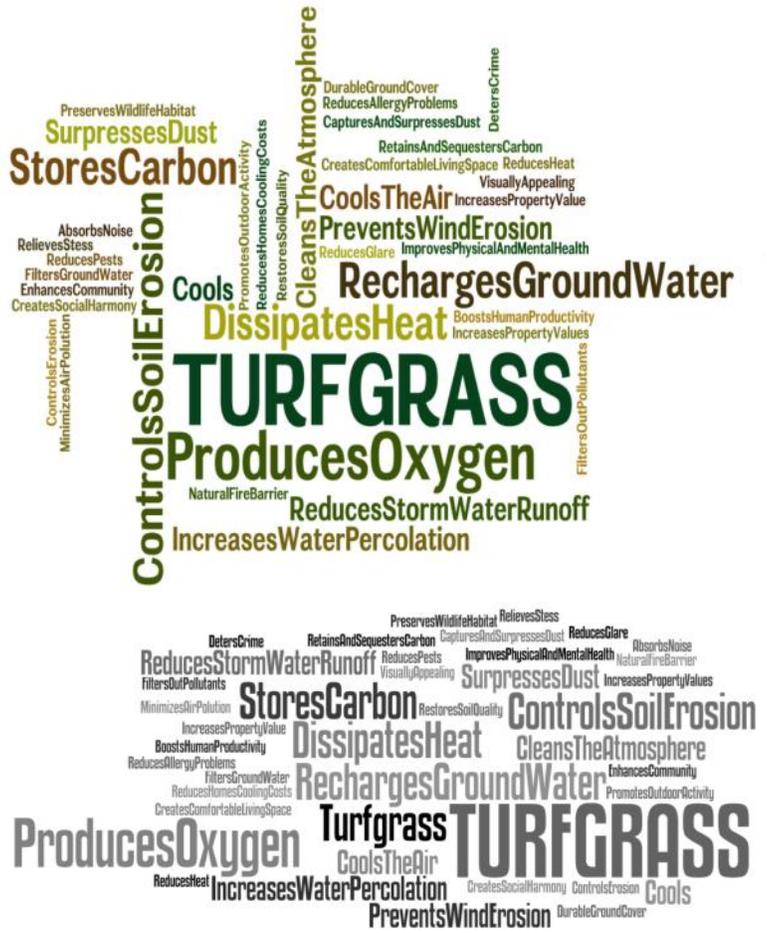
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Note: Copy reflects an effort to translate original text from German to English.

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The “word clouds” on this page were created using a program called **Wordle**. It enables you to create “word clouds” from text you provide. You can tweak your clouds with different fonts, layouts and color schemes. The images you create with **Wordle** are yours to use however you like.

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Turf News



TPI's column on the University of California's (Irvine) "Flawed Research Study" generates reader response and makes "Best of LASN Letters" column.

Best of LASN Letters

Re: "Flawed Turfgrass Study Captures Media" www.landscapeonline.com/research/article/13096 in which it was suggested that carbon-storing benefits of lawns were counteracted by fuel consumption, Katherine Howard writes:

Thank you for publishing this information. I am a volunteer with the San Francisco Ocean Edge, a group of people who are trying to prevent the installation of over six acres of artificial turf in Golden Gate Park*. This artificial turf will replace a natural grass meadow in an area of the park designated to remain pastoral by both the Golden Gate Park master plan and the National Register of Historic Places. The prior flawed study has been quoted as a reason for installing this artificial turf—claiming that it is "green." We appreciate this new information. Of course, Golden Gate Park should not have plastic grass any more than it should be planted with plastic trees. If any of your readers are interested in learning more about this project, please go to www.sfoceanedge.org. We would appreciate any support.

* See related story in the April 2010 E-Newsletter page 6 and follow-up story on page 8 of this issue.

Also re "Flawed Turfgrass Study," Guy Stivers, Urban Forester, Landscape Architect and Environmental Planner from Stivers and Associates, Tustin, Calif. writes:

Dear Landscapeonline.com:

I'm not surprised that Dr. Thomas Rufty, Bayer's distinguished professor, environmental plant biologist and "two dozen leading turfgrass extension specialists

and turfgrass researchers from across the nation" disagree with U.C. Irvine's grass greenhouse study. The specialists' livelihoods are based on ornamental grasses. And you wouldn't be biased in favor of the "specialist" just because you advertise turf grass products and services?

Perhaps you can provide a link to Dr. Rufty's PhD student's report and let me be the judge who is wrong on this issue.

In calculating gas emissions for ornamental grass in Irvine, a researcher would have to calculate the amount of energy (carbon emissions) that is required to pump six acre-feet of water a year to irrigate one-acre of grass. Over 20 years (avg. life of a lawn) that's a lot of carbon! A factoid to consider: The state of California spends 19 percent of their energy (carbon emissions) budget on pumping water.

LASN Editor's note: FYI, Mr. Stivers, re your comment—"And you wouldn't be biased in favor of the "specialist" just because you advertise turfgrass products and services?"—We have about three times as many synthetic grass advertisers as we do turf/turf seed advertisers! (22 vs 7).

The research paper citation at Geophysical Research Letters, a journal of the American Geophysical Union, is: A. Townsend-Small, C. I. Czimczik (2010). Carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emissions in urban turf. *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 37, L02707, doi:10.1029/2009GL041675.

To view a short preview of the research [Click Here](#). A link to the full article is there also. If you are not a subscriber to the American Geophysical Union, it will cost you \$9.

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Debate over artificial turf offers you two options — do NOTHING or do SOMETHING - - - for some San Franciscans it's a no brainer!



Natural turfgrass soccer fields as they appear today in Golden Gate Park.



Artist rendering created by City Fields Foundation of the four proposed artificial turf soccer fields.

Follow-up to last month's story on proposed artificial turf soccer fields in **Golden Gate Park** San Francisco, California

Last month we reported the controversy over converting existing natural turfgrass soccer fields to artificial turf in Golden Gate Park. We acknowledged the efforts of the Audubon Society but we failed to mention the people associated with **San Francisco Ocean Edge** who have organized and voiced their opposition.

These community organizers strongly support active recreation but have drawn the line on proposed artificial turf at the park.

Their Mission Statement reads in part: Golden Gate Park is too important to pave over without examining all the issues and creating alternatives to this project.

- (1) Renovation of the existing grass fields with natural grass, better drainage, and better maintenance.
- (2) Use of the remainder of the funding for other playing fields and parks, providing more recreation opportunities for children all over San Francisco.
- (3) Preserving Golden Gate Park's woodland and meadows as a heritage for future generations.

Project elements which will have a substantial adverse impact on Golden Gate Park*

- Loss of 6 acres of natural grass & topsoil
- Installation of 6 acres of artificial turf equals gravel, plastic carpet, old tires
- 60 foot tall stadium lighting spread over four fields
- 16 foot tall fencing
- New sidewalks through and all around the fields and up to the parking lot
- A 25% larger parking lot
- More traffic in the park; less parking at Ocean Beach
- 15 foot lights on all the paths around the field and in the parking lot
- Lighting to be on from before sunset until 10:00 p.m. at night EVERY NIGHT OF THE YEAR
- Loss of over 58 trees and many more shrubs
- Loss of habitat for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife,
- Located next to a new native plant area, which was meant to attract wildlife
- Runs contrary to the Golden Gate Park Master Plan
- Runs contrary to the National Register of Historic Places
- Destroys the historic character of the western end of Golden Gate Park
- Destroys views of the windmills, the Beach Chalet, and the Millwright's house
- Excludes use as parkland by everyone else – dogwalkers, kite flyers, bird watchers, strolling folks

* As identified by SF Ocean Edge

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ZANDER SOD CONVERTS TORONTO'S BMO FIELD TO NATURAL TURFGRASS

Claus Zander of Zander Sod Co. Limited, provided the turfgrass and assisted with installation when a decision was made to convert BMO Field in Toronto from artificial turf to natural grass. "The players asked for it, the European players demanded it ... and we supplied the turfgrass sod to get the job done.

During a recent interview, Zander recalled how events transpired, "During the winter of 2009, the decision was made to rip out the artificial field and install natural turfgrass and a sub air system. Northgate Farms was the general contractor. They are a long time customer of ours and during the winter we gave them a choice of several Kentucky bluegrass blends that we would have ready for harvest in the spring. After some consideration they chose the 100% Kentucky Bluegrass blend. Which we harvested from a native sand field."

Zander went on to add, "One of the challenges was that they wanted to start installing on the first of April, a full two to three weeks ahead of our 50 year average season start. The schedule was then moved up to March 29. Five days before the target date, a cold front was forecasted for the weekend with overnight temperatures reaching -10c (14F), we proceeded to harvest 4 trailer loads and stored all the trailers in heated shops to keep them from freezing and at 5:00 am on the 29th the loads started moving out.

The turf was mostly dormant, our soil temps in the field were 34 F, and on site they had the soil warmed up to 70 F! One could see the color improvement daily!"

The turfgrass sod was harvested in the Alliston area and transported some 92 km (57 miles). "The turf was an extra thick, single (42") big roll", according to Zander. He added, "We had experimented with a range of thicknesses to find the perfect fit for the balance of all the requirements. The field was 90,000 sq. ft."

"We had to deal with half load limits getting the turf from the field to the city, and ended up using approximately fourteen trailers to deliver the required turf. In addition to supplying the turf, we also provided an array of install equipment to lay on the sand base," said Zander.

When the project was finished, Zander reported that the promoters had done a great job on getting the media to "play it up".

Play it up they did. *The Toronto Sun* reported that TFC Captain Dwayne De Rosario was in a great mood, urging media representatives to take in the smell of the natural grass. "Smells great," he said after practicing on it for the first time. "It's just a different feel. To step on grass in my hometown, I can finally say: Soccer is here. To have a facility here like this, especially with natural grass, is first

class." It is great. It's natural, the guys enjoy it and I love it. It's nice to know that every week when we have a home game we will have natural grass to play on."



Thick cut large rolls being harvested.



Turfgrass sod arriving at BMO Field.



Installation begins at BMO Field.



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Toronto's BMO Field to Natural Turfgrass -Cont'd from page 9

The *Sun* also reported that TFC Director of soccer Mo Johnston and head coach Preki agreed the grass would be great for the franchise both on and off the field. "We all don't like playing on Astroturf," Johnston said. "In the past, we've had (prospective signings) in (but) once they saw the Astroturf, they didn't want to play here. Preki also said the grass would help cut down on nagging injuries.

In a related story *The Epoch Times* reported the newly installed system not only includes natural grass but also glycol heating tubes and the subgrade drain lines. The heating tubes are spaced throughout the field six inches apart and 10 inches beneath the grass. A boiler heats up glycol water and runs it through the tubes.



Heating system under BMO Field.



SubAir System controlling air and moisture of turfgrass on BMO Field.

A new aeration system consists of six-inch drain pipes that reside about 15 inches under the grass. They act as an enormous shop vacuum, only they absorb water. The SubAir system attaches to a drainage network located beneath the playing surface and utilizes

the drainage network as a medium to inject air or remove moisture from the soil profile

Together, these two systems will heat up the field and drain excess water to keep the grass in perfect growing conditions. They will ensure that no matter what the weather conditions, Toronto FC will start their season on time and on a fresh new turf. The aeration and drainage systems will enable players to use the field in early winter and during a wet spring. The field is also equipped with 12 GPS sensors that are grouped in four zones.

BMO Field is the first soccer field in the world that has both systems controlled remotely through GPS. The sensors, embedded in the ground, monitor the temperature and the moisture of the soil. This information is sent through a satellite to a monitoring station, which then adjusts the system to stabilize the temperature and the moisture. Word has it that there are already other clubs that asking about playing on the natural turfgrass that was put on BMO Field.

Zander was already familiar with BMO Field, because he was also responsible for providing the turfgrass sod used to line the field for the Real Madrid soccer game back in August of 2009. As part of the conditions of their playing in Toronto, Real Madrid required that the surface of BMO Field be converted from synthetic turf to natural grass.

In recalling that challenge Zander said, "During the summer of 2009 we were contracted by Northgate Farms to supply and assist with the installation of natural turf over the artificial field at the BMO soccer field. Having made many friends (sod growers) from around the world over the years at numerous Turfgrass Producers International (TPI) conventions, I was able to discuss the unique complexities that are involved with such a high profile, short deadline/no excuses project. The knowledge learned and shared between growers is of great value...something

one can't put a price tag on. It helps us to improve the professionalism of our industry, provide products and services that go far beyond normal expectations."

Zander said providing a sod overlay suitable for play took several special considerations. "It was of the utmost in quality and it was a thick cut. It took a special kind of harvesting, a big roll which is extra wide - three-and-a-half feet wide." To accomplish that task the sod was laid on top of the existing artificial turf field, with a special liner between the two. Along with the extra width cut, the sod was also about twice as thick as a regular cut, making it especially heavy. The extra weight was needed so the field wouldn't shift or pull up during game play.

Evidently Zander impressed his long time customer and the folks at BMO Field, because when the decision was made to permanently convert BMO Field to natural turfgrass they turned to someone they could rely on, Claus Zander of Zander Sod.



Installation of turfgrass began on March 29th and by April 15th (the first schedule day of play) the field received accolades from players.

Photos courtesy of Claus Zander

To see a time-lapse video of the installation at BMO Field
CLICK HERE →



<http://www.mls-daily.com/2010/03/video-bmo-field-grass-installation-time.html>

The Bakersfield Californian

EDITORIAL

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

“Immigration Reform that helps growers, consumers and the economy”

Immigration reform, and the lack thereof, has been a political hot potato in recent years. For some, immigration is a cheap tool to wind up those whose buttons are easily pushed. Others use it to deflect attention from pressing issues.

At long last, it appears we have a real shot at getting it right- improving the lives of immigrant workers, satisfying labor-hungry industry, adding a new layer of security and accountability, and sanding some of the sharp corners off of a contentious issue.

That is if law makers don't muck it up.

California Senator Dianne Feinstein is sponsoring the Ag-Jobs bill, and she has bipartisan support. She can count on Senator Richard Lugar (R-IND), and some Representatives in the House from farm heavy states, with the push.

The plan will open a way to “temporary” permanent residency for illegal immigrants who have worked in Ag for the last two years, if they remain in farm work for another three. Their immediate families will be eligible to live and work in the U.S., and to travel freely to their homeland. Later, they may apply for permanent-resident status, with a few procedural hoops to jump through.

Remarkably, Ag interest- including the California Farm Bureau-and their historic foe, the United Farm Workers of America are both on board. When was the last time they agreed on anything?

“I know a lot of western growers are in favor of it,” said Matthew Park, Executive Director of the Kern County Farm Bureau, The California Farm Bureau's local chapter.

The Obama Administration, which would welcome another legislative victory, has sent a clear signal that it wants to get it done.

“We've been close to getting it passed for years,” UFW President Arturo Rodriguez said in a brief interview with *The Californians* editorial board earlier this month, “But we feel like this is really the year to do it.”

Farm workers will have the opportunity for a better life than the one they fled in their homelands- and legally so. That's good for our economy. Ag interests will be able to count on a ready labor force. That's good for the economy, too. And we'll have a greater measure of security knowing who's in this country, and for what ostensible purpose.

As always, there will be determined resistance, some of which will be powered by the intellectual dishonesty, half-truths, blatant appeals to public fear and rage, and this is key- the real possibility that national leaders will fail, once again, to control the debate.

The Democrats, for example, have proven virtually incapable of shaping opinion.

Voters should, if for no other reason, consider the positive effect this program will have on the national economy. Jobs, even those of the menial variety, mean consumer spending, without which America suffers. It would also hold down the price of produce.

Rodriguez said, “It's in everyone's best interest for a broken system to change, as the United States is importing more food than it exports.”

“That doesn't help growers, it doesn't help farm workers, and it doesn't help consumers,” he told the editorial board. “It's very hard to control pesticides, how workers are treated, and food safety when food is produced overseas.”

Let's hope this is one initiative that withstands the barrage of attacks that are certain to come.

TPI would like to thank **Ginger Moorhouse**, Publisher and Chairman of the Board of *The Bakersfield Californian* for permission to reprint their editorial.

Brussels in Bloom - - - Coming this August

August 13,14 and 15, 2010 - The Magnificent Flower Carpet of Brussels



Turfgrass cut and positioned on large template.



Turfgrass is watered in preparation for placement of flowers.



Over 700,000 Begonias are unloaded for placement in the carpet.



Begonias are hardy, offer a rich variety of colors and dramatic contrast.

It was a tradition that began back in 1971 and it has taken place every two years ever since. It is the Flower Carpet created on the Brussels Grand-Place.

The making of the Flower Carpet is based on a plan worked out in advance, consisting of several stages. The creative process and planning often starts a year in advance, with projects and scale models, illustrating a commissioned theme (such as the commemoration of great events, or the arms and shield of a town, and sometimes the proposals of local horticultural associations.

Once the theme has been produced in representation and symbol, and after the number of flowers and color combinations have been calculated the overall design is transferred on the ground, like a huge template. Rolled turfgrass is positioned to fill spaces between the floral patterns that will be placed later. The turf is cut and then watered. No soil is used.

Once the turf is positioned begonia flowers are packed together, one by one, some three hundred to every square meter. The total number of flowers used often exceeds 700,000. Upon completion the Flower Carpet on the Grand-Place in Brussels will measure approximately 77 X 22 meters or 253 X 72 feet.

The begonias, comprised of bright colors of scarlet red, pure white, sunshine yellow, salmon pink and bright orange are pressed into the intricate pattern of a 17th-century French carpet, balanced by the darker shades of purple dahlias and green grass.

Flowers are packed tightly by nearly 100 volunteers and horticulturists.

Thanks to their skill and dedication the giant floral jigsaw can be created in under four hours.

In heat waves, the turf has to be watered to prevent it from shrinking, but if the weather is too wet, the grass can grow 4 to 5 centimeters in 3 days.

The beauty and diversity of these incredible floral carpets is largely due to their main component, the famous begonia. Chosen for its qualities of robustness, resistance to bad weather and strong sunshine the begonia guarantees the long life and freshness of the carpet. It also gives it is rich range of vivid colors or delicate pastel shades which reflect the light.

The event now attracts as many as 100,000 tourists, with many of them lining up to see the entire pattern from the bird's eye view above the square in the city's Gothic town hall.

Belgium cultivates 60 million begonia tubers every year, and is recognized as the world's largest producer. The Netherlands, France and the United States are its best customers.

Curious as to what these impressive and wondrous flower carpets looks like after they are completed?

See the next page

For more information click on the link below:
<http://www.flowercarpet.be/site/main.php?lg=en>

Our thanks to former TPI board member **Nancy Aerni** of *Turf Merchants* for bringing this story to our attention.

The Magnificent Flower Carpets of Brussels (Con'd)

Flower Carpets in Brussels over the years



Survey Records Demand for Turfgrass and Lawns

The ASLA fourth quarter ('09) Business Quarterly survey reported customer demand for design alternatives for traditional turfgrass increased 35.2% .

The top reasons for alternatives included saving money on utility/ maintenance costs (42.7 %), meeting green design benchmarks like the Sustainable Sites Initiative (39.6%), lower upkeep time and effort (39.3%), reduce environmental harm (28.8%), and meet government ordinance or code (24.8 %).

The top design alternatives were regionally appropriate vegetation (57.7%) incorporating water harvesting elements (41.4%), using native grass (37%), and incorporating hardscapes/permeable surfaces (35.5%).

Rate of client demand for traditional turfgrass or lawns:
 Demand has dropped in place of alternative elements – 35.2%
 Demand remains unchanged – 63.8%
 Demand has increased – 1.0%

Design alternatives used for turfgrass in the past 12 months:
 Retaining lawn, but replacing high-maintenance grasses with hardier, native varieties – 37.0%

Planting regionally appropriate, noninvasive vegetation – 57.7%
 Increasing use of a variety of hardscapes, including permeable surfaces – 35.5%
 Incorporating water harvesting elements such as rain gardens – 41.4%
 Introducing food/vegetable gardens – 10.8%
 Incorporating more structural elements – 5.9%
 Other – 11.4%

Reasons clients request alternatives to traditional turfgrass:
 Saves money on utility or maintenance costs – 42.7%
 Preferred an aesthetically pleasing design alternative – 16.1%
 Reducing environmental harm – 28.8%
 Lowering upkeep time and effort – 39.3%
 Received a government incentive such as a tax break or quicker approval – 3.1%
 Required by a government code (stormwater management, irrigation restrictions, etc.) – 24.8%
 Meet green design benchmarks such as LEED or the Sustainable Sites Initiative – 39.6%
 Other – 5.9%



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Wimbledon 2010

June 23 to July 6

Wimbledon, is the oldest tennis tournament in the world and is generally considered the most prestigious. It has been held at the All England Club in the London suburb of Wimbledon since 1877. It is one of the four Grand Slam tennis tournaments, and the only one still played on the game's original surface, grass, which gave the game of lawn tennis its name.

The French Open has clay courts (actually pulverized brick), The Australia and U.S. Open offer a medium-paced hard court, but Wimbledon has the most profound influence on style of play with its meticulously groomed grass surface.



Eddie Seward (pictured left) has been the Head Groundsman at Wimbledon since 1991 and it is a responsibility he doesn't

take lightly. Seward is supported with a staff of 14 permanent grounds keepers and when the Championships come around the crew grows to 36.

In 2001 Wimbledon removed its existing grass which was a mix of 70% rye and 30% creeping red fescue and replaced it with 100% perennial rye.

Seward reports that the new grass was developed because the tournament needed a grass that could withstand wear, hold up over two weeks of intense play and offer durability.

The grass plant also had to survive in dry soil. Research also indicated that a cut height of 8mm (less than a third of an inch) was the optimum for present day play and survival.

Another interesting note, the amount a tennis ball bounces is largely determined by the soil, not the grass. The soil must be hard and dry to allow 13 days of play without damage to the court sub-surface. To achieve even consistency and hardness, the courts are rolled and covered to keep them dry and firm. Regular measurements are taken to monitor and maintain the playing area.

If the court is too soft, when the players run, jump and slide, the pimples on their shoes will damage the surface and increase the chance of an irregular bounce.

What sets Wimbledon apart isn't just the rich history associated with the All England Lawn Tennis Club — it's what's underfoot . . .

The GRASS!



Some interesting side notes:

- An estimated one ton of grass seed is used each year.
- Maximum of 3,000 gallons of water is used (fourteen days before the event) - weather permitting.
- All courts are re-lined, rolled and mown daily during Championships.
- Court wear, surface hardness and ball rebound are measured daily.
- Paint is not used to color the Centre Court green towards the end of the event.

Tim Phillips, Chairman of the All England Club and The Championships says: "Wimbledon has always striven to provide the players with the best possible grass courts on which to display their considerable talents. Just as the game of tennis does not stand still, neither do we and we continue to prepare our courts using all our experience and the latest technology. Ultimately, we aim to produce the best possible playing surface."

Perhaps no one knows that better than Head Groundsman, Eddie Seward.



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