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## TURFGRASS tops the Leader Board at the 93rd PGA Championship in Georgia



Although the weather in and around Atlanta Athletic Club's, Highland Course in Johns Creek, Georgia has been sizzling this summer, the warm season grasses

selected for the 93rd PGA Championship were more than ready.

Credit has to go to Ken Mangum, golf course director at the Atlanta Athletic Club for his suggestion to select three unique heat resistant grasses as part of Highlands redesign for the PGA Championship.

Mangum selected Diamond Zoysia, Tifton 10 Bermuda and Champion Ultradwarf Bermuda for a variety of good reasons.

Mangum was quoted as saying, "Diamond Zoysia is one of the finest textured Zoysia's you'll ever see. Tifton 10 Bermuda grass is a great rough grass because it not only provides a great contrast, it provides a great lie for the ball, it typically holds the ball up some because all the leaves are at the end of the stem, which gives a player an option to go for the green. Champion Ultradwarf Bermuda is a very fine textured



surface. We cut it very short, around one-tenth of an inch. It provides a great putting surface."

While some people might think you would expect a golf course director of a major tournament to express such praise for the turf that's used, Mangum isn't alone in noticing just how much these new varieties have stood out.

More than a few tour players gave the course high marks. Following a practice round prior to the start of the tournament, Tiger Woods commented on his website, "I had a blast out there on a wonderful course. It should be a great test for a major championship." He was also quoted as saying, "this Diamond Zoysia is just unreal."



Cont'd on page 2

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Ken Mangum, golf course director at the Atlanta Athletic Club.

Ken Mangum, golf course director at the Atlanta Athletic Club gets credit for a near perfection course. Thanks to select varieties of turfgrass and advancements in technology the course for the 93rd PGA Championship served to illustrate the benefit of on-going turfgrass research to develop new varieties of grasses that stand up to heat stress, require less water, fewer mowings and look great.

— J. Novak

Woods wasn't alone in his praise; sports writers and TV commentators offered their share of favorable comments too; and how often have you heard professional golfers not only praise a course, but actually know what kind of turf they were playing on? According to The Golfdom Daily there were a good number of golfers who knew more about the grass underfoot than you might think.

Jerry Kelly (Madison, Wisconsin) - - "This is the best grass we've probably ever played on. This Champion Ultradwarf Bermuda is a fantastic southern course grass for the greens, and we have never seen anything like this Diamond Zoysia, it's fantastic."

Jim Furyk (Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida) - - "I don't think we've played a course in this good of shape all year, to be honest with you. They look like carpets. It's some sort of zoysia I'm not familiar with, Diamond Zoysia? Zoysia's usually a wide blade of grass, this is a little thinner, zoysia can get real thatchy and spongy, and this is not either. It's as good of fairways as I've ever played on, ever."

Graeme McDowell (Portrush, Northern Ireland) - - "The fairways are like carpets, they're just perfect, they're just perfect."

Aaron Baddeley (Scottsdale, Arizona) - - "The conditions are unbelievable. The fairways are the best I've ever played. They're unbelievable, like carpet."

Gary Woodland (Orlando, Florida) - - "The fairways are perfect. They're awesome."

Masters champion Charl Schwartzel (Vereeniging, South Africa) - - "It's just so much fun to play a golf course when it's in such good condition, and even the greens were just phenomenal."

Adam Scott (Crans sur Sierre, Switzerland) - - "The course is in magnificent condition."

New York Times writer Mike Tierney reported that Kerry Haigh, a PGA of America managing director who worked with Ken Mangum on the course setup said, "This is the first time in my 25 years of doing this that I'm not worried about 95-to-100-degree temperatures ravaging the turf."

Tierney also reported that besides being suited to the warmth, the Diamond Zoysia and Tifton 10 Bermuda require less mowing and the course's computerized irrigation system enables weather data to be downloaded so sprinkler heads adjust to determine how much water is required.

Advancements in turfgrass varieties, ever-changing technology and professional foresight are bringing turfgrass to the forefront of professional golf thanks to the efforts of turfgrass researchers and golf course professionals like Ken Mangum.

**NOTE:** Our thanks to **David Doguet** of Bladerunner Farms in Poteet, Texas for bringing this story to our attention.

# PARTY ANYONE?

## FOR \$50 AN HOUR YOU CAN RENT A NATURAL TURFGRASS LAWN

There are a few New York city entrepreneurs who take heart in the thought—"If you plant it they will come." The real question is . . . How much are they willing to pay?

For most people who live or work in Manhattan, trying to find a backyard setting to just relax and have fun with family or friends can be a challenge.



Thanks to the entrepreneurial skills of some creative city-dwellers who formed *Timeshare Backyard* that may soon change. They're betting city folk will be happy to fork over some green for a chance to relax on the green.

For \$50 an hour you can rent 3,200 square feet of freshly laid turfgrass sod and enjoy a little sunbathing or perhaps a family barbecue on New York's Lower East Side.



If you clean-up and convert a vacant lot on New York's Lower East Side to a backyard oasis by installing turfgrass sod will anyone rent out the space by the hour?

Will people living in the Big Apple bite into such a unique offer? Jacqui Kavanagh, the person who came up with the idea has announced that beginning this month people who find getting out to Central Park a challenge will now have another option — they can rent a backyard!

Transforming what was once a vacant lot into a comfortable green area for a lawn party, social get-together or a family picnic at \$50 an hour might have some appeal to a few people, especially New Yorker's who are hard pressed to find a place to relax.

If you think this is a crazy idea think again, *Timeshare Backyard* is already getting inquiries and they are accepting renter requests to book the lawn. By the way, if you need lawn chairs, a kiddie pool, Slip 'n' Slide, packed cooler, hammock, a garden hose, sparklers, trampoline, hula hoops, water balloons, lanterns, pop-sicles and/or food and beverages, *Timeshare Backyard* will provide that too, at a fee of course! For example, you can rent a Slip 'n' Slide for \$100, a kiddie pool for \$200, and a grill with all the works for \$150. Want a live band to really get the party going? That'll run you around \$5,000.

So for those spirited entrepreneurs in areas where natural grass lawns are in short supply why not rollout some turfgrass sod and try renting out the space.

# TPI's 2011 SUMMER CONVENTION & FIELD DAYS IN RENO, NEVADA IS A SUCCESS!



By all accounts TPI's 2011 Summer Convention & Field Days, July 18-21 in Reno, Nevada was a success. Over 300 people from nine countries were in attendance. The following are some of the activities that made this year's convention especially worthwhile for those in attendance. For a thorough overview see the September/October 2011 issue of *Turf News*.

## Monday, July 18

In addition to a variety of production committee meetings and working group session, attendees had the opportunity to participate in **The Next Generation Leaders Reception** followed by a **Welcome Reception**.

## Tuesday, July 19

The **Lawn Institute Memorial Golf Tournament** at Wolf Run Golf Club gave golfers an opportunity to play on a great course, enjoy one another's company, and show their support for research and education through The Lawn Institute foundation.



TPI President **Dave Dymond** (left) and TPI vice president **Bobby Winstead** get ready to tee-off during The Lawn Institute Memorial Golf Tournament. The Foundation raised approximately \$3,000 to support research and education.  
Photo: Kirk Hunter



TPI Board member **Leon Dahle** of Dahle Sod Farm shares some time with **Linda Bradley** of Turf Mountain Sod during the Next Generation Leader's Reception.  
Photo: Lynn Grooms



TPI Board member **Johnny Trandem** of Ostfold Gress AS in Dilling, Norway exchanges hellos with **Mohammad Moosavinia** of Mohammad Sod Turf Grass Co. in Tehran, Iran during TPI's Welcome Reception.  
Photo: Lynn Grooms

**Tuesday, July 19**

Non-golfers had an opportunity to enjoy a scenic tour of nearby **Lake Tahoe**.

The **TPI Banquet** took place in historic Virginia City, made famous in the mid 19th century when the discovery of gold and silver created one of the biggest mining booms in U.S. history. In addition to enjoying a great meal, attendees had an opportunity to walk the streets and take tours of this historic city that seems frozen in time.

**Wednesday, July 20**

The **Women's Forum** provided attendees with an opportunity to get acquainted and enjoy the company of friends.

This was followed by TPI's **Annual Business Meeting** which saw the election of the following officers for 2011/2012—**Dave Dymond** as President, **Bobby Winstead**, Vice President and **Duane Klundt** Secretary - Treasurer. New appointees to the Board of Trustees included **Will Nugent** of Bethel Farms, Arcadia, Florida and **Dave Johnson** of D. Johnson Farms, Deerfield, New Jersey.



Christiaan Rossouw and Jannie van der Schyf of Africa Lawns in South Africa take a break during the Lake Tahoe scenic tour.

Photo: Jim Novak



TPI members step back in time in Virginia City, Nevada; site of gold mining and the famous Comstock Lode silver strike of the 1800's.

Photo: Jim Novak



Newly appointed Board Trustees **Will Nugent** and **Dave Johnson**.



TPI Officers past and present (left to right)—**Duane Klundt** (Secretary – Treasurer 2011-12 ), **Claus Zander** (Past President 2010-2011), **Charles Lain, Jr.** (Past President, 2009-10), **Bobby Winstead** (Vice President 2011-12 , and **Dave Dymond** (President 2011-12 )

Photos: Lynn Grooms



The informal Women's Forum breakfast was open to all female attendees providing them an opportunity to discuss a variety of issues and topics of interest.

Photos: Lynn Grooms



Keynote speaker **Matthew Plunkett**, University of Western Sydney.

### Wednesday, July 20

The **Keynote Presentation** by Matthew Plunkett, Project Officer Water Management, Water Smart Farms Project Industry & Investment NSW, University of Western Sydney titled "Improving Water Management in a Changing Climate" addressed an issue that was especially timely and important to growers. (See additional comments from Matthew Plunkett on page 11.)

The **Roundtable Forum** provided those in attendance with an opportunity to engage in candid discussions about various issues of importance to turfgrass

producers and industry representatives.

**First Timers Meet & Greet** gave new TPI members the opportunity to meet with Board members, get acquainted, ask questions and learn more about Turfgrass Producers International.

Wednesday evening's **Exhibit Dinner** allowed members to meet with manufacturers and service providers to learn more about their products and service support offerings. The event was also an ideal setting for members to network with other turfgrass producers.



Photos: Lynn Grooms

# Field Days in Reno, Nevada

Thursday, July 21

**Western Turf Farm** in Reno, Nevada served as the host farm for **TPI's 2011 Field Day**. Nearly 400 people had an opportunity to meet with leading manufacturers and key suppliers. In addition to showcasing the latest innovations in turfgrass equipment with in-field demonstrations, attendees also had an opportunity to meet with seed, supply and service providers, ask questions, build future relationships and engage with other members who could help them grow their business.



TPI Executive Director, **Kirk Hunter** with **Jason Perry** and **Harry Fahnestock** of Western Turf Farm.



Photos: TPI Staff



Photos: TPI Staff





## Can tree-huggers hug grass too? Maybe, if it's tall enough!



An acre of turf grass surrounding the State University of New York College at Cortland (SUNY Cortland) is not being trimmed to save energy, reduce fuel emissions and encourage natural habitats. The knee-high grass near the athletic fields on the main campus, now known as a “no mow” zone, represents the college’s latest sustainability effort.

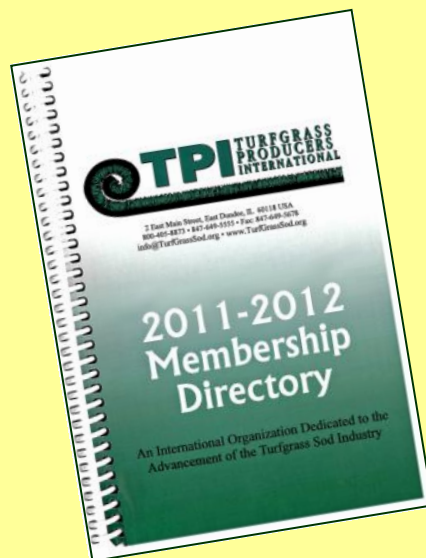
The “no mow” zones will eventually cover two or three more acres on campus according to the grounds supervisor, Ron Moody. Moody explained that mindful mowing accentuates the look of an ecosystem and he reports being amazed at the variety of wildlife he has seen such as turkeys, foxes, deer, woodchucks, squirrels, raccoons and a variety of birds.

The turfgrass, which includes a mix of purple, white and yellow wildflowers, will grow one to two feet before it turns to seed. Moody’s staff planted the wildflowers and mowed paths surrounding the area. In time, shrubs and trees will fill in to provide plant cover. Reduced mowing also offers economic and environmental benefits in addition to aesthetic, natural beauty. A decline in fuel and equipment usage will reduce carbon dioxide emissions while saving money. They also expect to gain at least ten labor hours each week, which helps the College’s ongoing effort to maximize its resources. Birds, butterflies and other animals will find food and habitats while native wildflowers will claim spots to bloom.

Moody said he has not received any negative feedback from the campus community. Although it often takes time for people to adjust to the appearance of unmowed grass, once they see the way “no mow” zones highlight their surroundings, they appreciate natural beauty more, he said.

If you want to be listed in the  
**2011-2012**  
**TPI Membership Directory:**  
**ACT NOW!**

**Renew your membership no later  
than September 1, 2011**



If you want to ensure your company will be listed in the **2011-12 TPI Membership Directory**, and if you want to continue to receive *Turf News* magazine without interruption, renew your TPI membership no later than September 1, 2011.

For more information about becoming a member of Turfgrass Producers International, or for renewal information, contact Veronica Iwanski, Membership Manager, at 800-405-8873 or e-mail [viwanski@TurfGrassSod.org](mailto:viwanski@TurfGrassSod.org) today!

## How to Manage Turfgrass While Conserving Water

Advances in the science and technologies of turfgrass water use result in an updated edition of a widely used reference book.

The anticipated second edition of *“Turfgrass Water Conservation”* brings clear, current, science-based information on turfgrass management and water conservation to turf managers and researchers alike.

Since the first edition of this widely used reference book was released in 1985, the science of turfgrass water use and water conservation has made significant gains. Now two turfgrass experts have prepared the second edition to bring readers’ attention to the many advances in the science and technologies of turfgrass water use.

Included for the first time in *“Turfgrass Water Conservation”* (University of California—Agriculture and Natural Resources - 2011) are the environmental impact of water use on turf; policy issues; expanded relationships with the landscape; and water use efficiency in soils modified for high quality or high traffic turf. Inside you’ll find current understandings of water use as well as new technologies being researched to reduce water use by turfgrass.

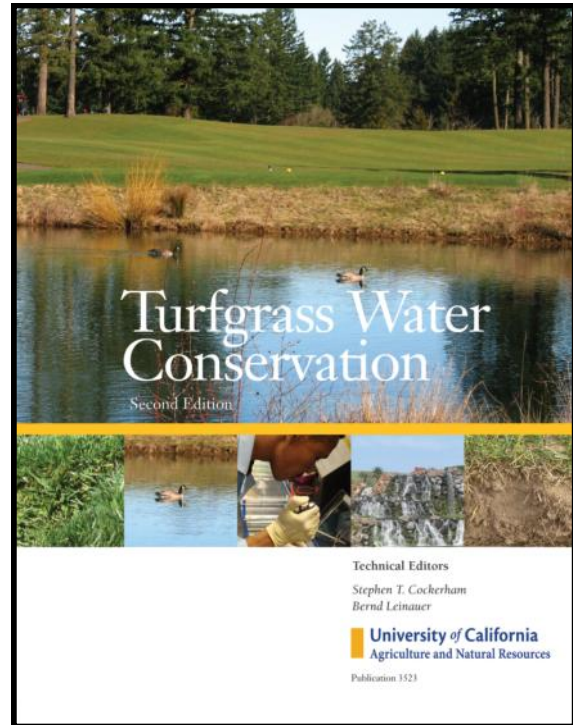
Attention is paid to water quality and turfgrass as a key part of the urban environment, how integrating turfgrass with other landscape uses of water can be part of a conservation plan, and how various water qualities, including reclaimed water, can be part of a management plan.

The 164 page book covers a variety of important topics



Co-Editor Stephen Cockerham, Superintendent of Agricultural Operations, University of California - Riverside.

including: advances in drought, heat, and salinity stress tolerance; the role of water in modified root zone media and native soils; water management technologies; considerations for construction and management of urban green spaces including parks and golf courses, and water depletion and pesticide and nutrient runoff.



The book also includes 10 tables and figures, 20 color photos, a U.S. customary to metric conversion table, and an 8-page glossary.

According to Stephen T. Cockerham, the superintendent of agricultural operations at the University of California, Riverside, who co-edited the second edition with Bernd Leinauer, a turfgrass specialist at New Mexico State University, a particularly valuable feature of the second edition is the “Practicum” chapter consisting of practical information, gleaned from each technical chapter. The practicum is geared especially for practitioners, administrators in planning and operations, politicians, public agencies, educators and students.

“The new edition also features articles by many authors from the first edition,” Cockerham said. “Contributors also include many of today’s young scientists on the cutting-edge of turfgrass research.”

The second edition of *“Turfgrass Water Conservation”* may be purchased by going to the University of California ANR Catalog site at <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/Items/3523.aspx>.



Matthew Plunkett

Reader Comment:  
**Nevada Water  
 Fact Sheet—  
 Link to turfgrass  
 alarming!**

I was reading this fact sheet on Nevada's water issues recently.

[EPA WaterSense -NEVADA Water Fact Sheet —  
 http://www.epa.gov/watersense/docs/nevada\\_state\\_fact\\_sheet.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/docs/nevada_state_fact_sheet.pdf)

I was alarmed at the amount of lawn area they had pulled out in southern Nevada (150 million square feet), and gave people rebates to do it! I can understand rebates for water efficiency measures, but pulling out lawns to this extent? This is totally the opposite to what has happened in Victoria, Australia which I found interesting. In Victoria, rebates have been given for people to establish their warm season grasses, before reverting back to water restrictions, or no watering after 28 days. I can only imagine how much hotter Las Vegas and surrounding areas will be, not to mention the environmental issues!

I remember a gentleman on a flight from Dallas to Orlando telling me that they had removed numerous lawns in Las Vegas, and he was going to pull out his St Augustine lawn in Orlando due to bad publicity in the press. As Jim Novak's article\* pointed out recently, the damage done by a small section of the media in Orlando really does the industry a lot of harm. I witnessed this first hand, and it highlights to me the importance of **Turfgrass Producers International** and **The Lawn Institute**.

Given the TPI's Midwinter Conference is in Arizona early next year, I thought this might be of some interest.

Matthew Plunkett  
 Project Officer Water Management  
 Water Smart Farms Project  
 Industry & Investment NSW  
 Building M14  
 University of Western Sydney  
 Locked Bag 4

\* TPI E-Newsletter June/July 2011—  
 "Don't confuse me with facts, my mind's already made up!" - TPI takes issue with commentary in the Orlando Sentinel.

## TurfSide-UP

### How's this for a GLOBAL SIZED illusion?



This somewhat unique artistic masterpiece resembling a turfgrass globe isn't actually what it appears to be. Yes it's made of grass, and it certainly appears to be a globe, but there's more to it . . . much more. What appears to be a grass globe actually covers 16,000 sq ft (1500 sq m) and measures 330 ft (100 m) long. Approximately 90 gardeners worked for five days to assemble the entire display.

Created in Paris by artist Francois Abenalet, this ingenious sidewalk installation goes beyond the usual chalk drawings on walkways by incorporating actual grass and trees. It's a classic example of anamorphosis -- a distorted image that only takes its "proper" form when viewed from exactly the right angle. The artist actually plays tricks on our eyes, making us believe there is a three-dimensional grass globe sitting right in the middle of Paris' City Hall. When viewed at different angles the illusion quickly falls apart.

To see how this illusion was achieved and what it actually looks like, go to page 14.

# TEXAS HEATWAVE



When we received a call from **David Doguet** of Bladerunner Farms in Poteet, Texas last week regarding the turfgrass at this year's PGA tournament (see cover story), Doguet also mentioned how the current drought in Texas has taken its toll on farmers.

"It's 105 degrees (40.5 Celsius) and I don't think we've had more than 2 inches of rain since the first of the year. We're dry and burning up in Texas right now and it's hurting everyone."

Doguet isn't alone; other turfgrass producers and livestock and crop producers are all taking it on the chin as the state continues to suffer through one of the most severe dry periods in decades.

The U.S. Drought Monitor has reported that 94 percent of Texas is suffering from either extreme or exceptional drought, the two most severe categories.

How bad is it? July 2011 was the hottest month ever recorded in Texas, according to state climatologist John Nielson-Gammon, and the 12 months ending July 31 were the driest since records started being kept in 1895.

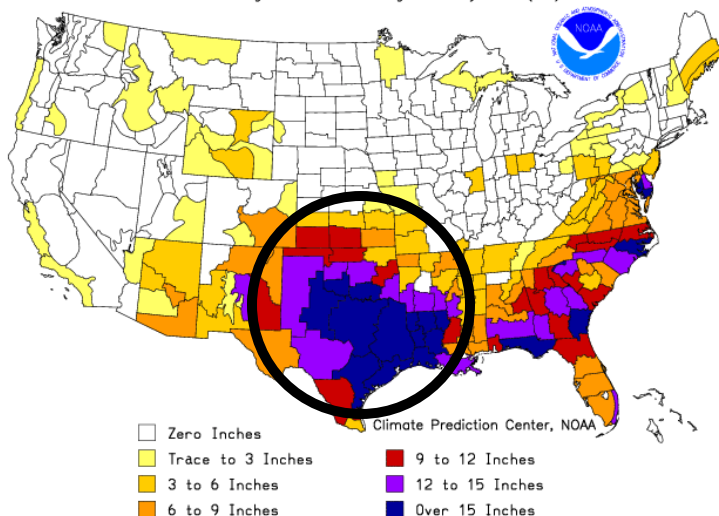
Travis Miller, professor of soil and crop sciences at Texas A&M University, said agriculture and ranching have been devastated. "It will clearly, in my opinion, be the largest agriculture loss we have ever experienced," Miller said, estimating farmers and ranchers stand to lose \$8 billion, double the losses from droughts in 2006 and 2009. And he says the worse may not have even arrived for Texas.

Dr. Larry Redmon, Texas AgriLife Extension Service state forage specialist is quoted as saying, "It's unprecedented, we've had the 12 driest months in Texas history, and there's just not many ways to combat that."

In a USA Today op-ed, Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-TX) reflected upon the "devastating" and "historic" Texas drought, the most severe one-year drought on record,

## Drought Severity Index shows seriousness of Texas drought.

Additional Precip. Needed (In.) to Bring PDI to  $-0.5$   
Weekly Value for Period Ending AUG 13, 2011  
Long Term Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDI)



stating: "Last year, my hometown of Clarendon, Texas, recorded 27.95 inches of precipitation.

This year, we received a total of 2.08 inches through Aug. 10. My family has been ranching in northern Texas for more than 120 years, and we have never seen or felt anything like it."

Although weather forecasters can't see any immediate relief for Texas farmers it is our hope any such relief is just around the corner for nearly 30 TPI members who have turfgrass farms throughout the Lone Star State.



**Where in the world is  
TPI represented?  
EVERYWHERE!**

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

**NG Turf  
Whitesburg, Georgia USA**

<http://www.ngturf.com>



North Georgia Turf, Inc. is a family owned and operated business with more than 25 years experience. The company was started in 1985 in Whitesburg, Georgia with 25 acres of certified bermudagrass. The focus and mission — total customer satisfaction.



Aaron McWhorter of NG Turf.

Today, NG Turf's founder and owner, Aaron McWhorter oversees approximately 2000 acres and has established NG Turf as an industry leader throughout the Southeast in providing high quality products and superior service.

NG Turf has become a name that is synonymous with quality and value providing turfgrasses to homeowners, landscape professionals, golf courses, and athletic fields.

NG Turf currently offers twelve different varieties, and these varieties provide their customers with a choice for every possible need.

In December 1991, McWhorter started another company, Sports Turf Company, Inc. to meet the growing athletic field construction business in Georgia. Sports Turf has since grown into an organization that is recognized as the preferred contractor for high quality construction projects for colleges and universities, city and county municipalities, and public school systems throughout the Southeast. High profile projects/customers include Atlanta Falcons training facility, Auburn Tigers, University of Alabama, Atlanta Public Schools, and the 1996 Olympic Softball Facility.



Proud Member of Turfgrass Producers International



# Unraveling the mystery of a GLOBAL SIZED illusion



## Meeting the Challenge

From an artificial field to natural grass field and back again!

Temporarily converting the artificial field at Empire Field in Vancouver B.C. to a 90,000 square foot natural turfgrass field in just 30 hours might seem a bit intimidating, but **JB Instant Lawn** in Silverton, Oregon was up to the challenge.

The Vancouver Whitecaps (a major league soccer team in Vancouver) hired English Lawns of North Vancouver to install and later remove 90,000 square feet of sod for the July 18 visit by FA Cup champion Manchester City.

The installation project was coordinated by JB Instant Lawn from Silverton, Oregon, in partnership with B.C. company English Lawns, and another B.C. company, Bos Sod, supplying the playing surface. The estimated cost was \$150,000.

How was this project achieved within such a short time frame?

The crew began by installing a plastic tarp over the artificial field which was taped at the seams to ensure a water tight covering.

The natural turf was harvested and delivered the day of installation to ensure the best viability and condition of the turfgrass. The turfgrass was a mix of 75% Perennial ryegrass and 25% Kentucky bluegrass. The grass was harvested into Big Rolls (4 feet wide by 50 feet long) and 1-1/2 inches thick. Each roll weighed approximately 2,500 pounds and it took about 14 truckloads to complete the delivery which began at 7:00 am.

Upon delivery the turfgrass was unloaded and install machines mounted with wide turf tires ensured none of the grass being installed would be damaged.

Two install machines were used for installation and a third machine with a mechanical pusher was used to push the laid rolls of sod tightly together to make each strip of sod as seamless as possible.

The project began by establishing a straight line of sod positioned down the middle of the field so installers would have the ability to work on both sides of the field at the same time, working from the center out.

Experienced turf cutters follow the installation of the Big Rolls and cut any overlap of the turf to maintain a seamless playing field. In about 30 hours the entire field was finished.

After the games it took another 30 hours to remove the natural grass and return the artificial turf field to its original condition. The sod was later recycled back to the field at Bos Sod.

JB Instant Lawn has done about 15 similar conversions. The latest one prior to Empire Field was at Century Link Field in Seattle, Washington.

**NOTE:** We wish to express our appreciation to **James Schneider**, CEO of JB Instant Lawn for bringing this story to our attention.

**RELATED STORY:** Last month Bermuda grass was also installed over the artificial turf field at Florida's Citrus Bowl for a one day event because of non-negotiable demands made by the English Premier League stalwart Newcastle. The cost was reportedly in the six figures. The turfgrass was removed after the game and donated to the city's Parks & Recreation Department.



Photos: <http://www.whitecapsfc.com/news/2011/07/green-bell-pitch>