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## New study suggests that football knee injuries are more likely on artificial surfaces than natural grass.

A new study suggests that college football players suffer knee injuries about 40 percent more often when they play on artificial turf compared to natural grass.

Dr. Jason Dragoo, the lead author of the study and a professor at Stanford University School of Medicine suggested that artificial turf may offer a more consistent playing field, and it might be expected to deliver better performance, but it has not been considered any less safe than natural grass.

Dragoo told Reuters Health "This doesn't say there's conclusive evidence that turf increases the injury rate, but maybe we can say it's not as safe as we thought it was,"

The findings, published in The American Journal of Sports Medicine, were part of a study looking back on knee injuries among college football players to see when they might be most vulnerable to getting hurt. Dragoo and his colleagues note in their report that football is the leading cause of sports-related injuries in the U.S.

Reuters reported that the research team examined cases of tears to the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in the knee that were reported to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Injury Surveillance System. The surveillance system includes about 10 percent of schools in the NCAA, and the study period spanned the 2004-2009 playing seasons.

The study found 318 injuries to the ACL during those seasons, which translated to a rate of 14 injuries for every 100,000 "exposures." Each time a player practiced, scrimmaged or played a game was counted as one exposure. ACL injuries were 10 times more common during games than during practices, and close to five times as common during scrimmages than during regular practice. Athletes were also 1.39 times as likely to be injured when playing on modern artificial turf as they were when

playing on natural grass. The newer types of artificial playing fields are called infill surfaces. They have a layer of synthetic grass over a field of rubberized pellets called fill.

There were close to 18 injuries for every 100,000 exposures among athletes playing on infill surfaces, compared to 14 injuries for every 100,000 practices or games that took place on artificial turf without fill or on natural grass.

Dr. James Bradley, the chief orthopedic surgeon for the Pittsburgh Steelers and a clinical professor at the University of Pittsburgh, said the findings support what's also been observed in the National Football League.

Bradley suggested that the problem might be the shoe surface interface with the field. Dragoo seemed to agree, suggesting the players may be getting such a good grip on the artificial surface that the leg doesn't give way as it does on natural grass and the resulting force is driven to the knee.

Both men seem to agree that different shoes might resolve the problem.

In the interim, perhaps football players and other athletes should tread a bit more lightly on artificial turf.

### The American Journal of Sports Medicine

#### Reference: Incidence and Risk Factors for Injuries to the Anterior Cruciate Ligament in National Collegiate Athletic Association Football

Data From the 2004-2005 Through 2008-2009 National Collegiate Athletic Association Injury Surveillance System  
Jason L. Dragoo, MD, Hillary J. Braun, BA, Jennah L. Durham, Michael R. Chen, MD and Alex H.S. Harris, PhD. Investigation performed at the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Stanford University, Redwood City, California  
Jason L. Dragoo, MD, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Stanford University, 450 Broadway Street, Pavilion C, 4th Floor, Redwood City, CA 94063-6342 (e-mail: jdragoo@stanford.edu).

<http://ajs.sagepub.com/content/early/2012/04/04/0363546512442336>



## IN SEARCH OF GREENER PASTURES

**The York Minster** in York, England (also known as *The Cathedral & Metropolitan Church of St. Peter*) is one of the finest gothic cathedrals in the world and it is one of Britain's most treasured buildings.

When work commenced on York Minster's nave in 1291 the builders probably never envisioned that one day this beautiful cathedral would have a floor of natural turfgrass to enhance its beauty, but that's what happened recently.

What occasion could possibly persuade the ministry to lay 1,500 square meters of real turfgrass over the cathedral's floor? For starters, how about a dinner to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee, and at the same time, raise money for the cathedral's renovation fund, the York Minster Fund, for the continued upkeep of the centuries-old structure.

The celebration/fund raiser was a success with more than 900 guests in attendance. So how did they do it? Rather than growing turf from a soil base, the company that provided the turf began the process by covering the cathedral's floor with rollable plant sheets made from a felt structure formed from recycled British textiles. A team of ten workers extended a layer of plastic upon the floor of the church, then put in place the soil-less turf which transformed the gothic structure's nave into a green expanse of interior space.



A team of workers prepare the cathedral for the once in a lifetime event.



The turf received some tender loving care prior to the big event.

BBC News photo – John Giles/PA



Guests at the York Minster Rose Dinner dined on tables set out on a living carpet of grass.





## Pesticide Ban Defeated at Annual Town Hall Meeting in Needham, Maryland, USA

A citizen's petition calling for a complete ban on pesticide use on city property brought before the Needham, Maryland Board of Selectmen by activists from the LEAH Collective\* was defeated for a second time during a May 9, 2012 town meeting.

Despite the town selectmen's earlier unanimous vote not to support the measure, activists chose to bring the petition to the town's annual meeting. Grassroots support was organized by Karen Connelly with the Massachusetts Association of Lawn Care Professionals (MALCP). Green industry professionals were joined by local officials from the Department of Health and Parks and Recreation Dept., who spoke out against the measure. Additionally, a number of citizens spoke in opposition to the ban including a medical entomologist who discussed the dangers from West Nile Virus and the need to use pesticides. Thanks to MALCP for organizing grassroots support around this issue.

The MALCP is the official association of lawn care professionals throughout Massachusetts. It is made up of professional lawn care companies, licensed applicators, educators, profes-

sional affiliates, universities and suppliers. Its primary goal is to serve as an information resource to association members, legislators and Boards of Health, as well as the general public.

With the myriad of issues facing lawn care and public health, MALCP is intent on providing scientific, sound and rational information to those concerned. To that degree, MALCP was instrumental in assisting the Pesticide Bureau with the creation of the currently used lawn care signs. Also, MALCP was a forerunner in getting the statewide licensing bill passed. The bill mandates all who apply pesticides in the Commonwealth for-hire must be licensed. The Pre-emption bill, sponsored by MALCP, ensures that the Pesticide Bureau is the sole regulator of pesticides, thereby assuring that a state, centralized agency regulates the approval and the use of these materials. With over 350 cities and towns in Massachusetts, this is the only way to provide effective regulation.

\* The Leah Collective is a non-profit group of educators, health care professionals and citizens who are concerned about the connection between health issues and exposures to pesticides used in lawn care.

NOTE: TPI is an active supporter of RISE and other organizations such as the NTF (National Turfgrass Federation), Project Evergreen, NCAE (National Council of Agricultural Employers, etc.

**RISE Matters**  
Owning Our Rightful Place  
in the Green Movement.

Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment



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CLICK HERE to visit TPI's FACEBOOK page

### Recent Postings on FACEBOOK

**COME ON OUT  
AND HAVE A  
FIELD DAY!**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 2012

Featuring Live Equipment  
Demonstrations that will include:

- Harvesters
- Tillers
- Mowers
- Installers
- Tractors
- Cultivators
- Forklifts

Field day will be held at Turf Mountain Sod, a family owned business with over 600 acres in turfgrass sod production.



CLICK HERE TO  
REGISTER TODAY!

### TPI STUDY TOUR SOUTH AFRICA & BOTSWANA



OCTOBER 27 - NOVEMBER 7, 2012

DEADLINE - JUNE 26, 2012

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

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



**Davenport, Iowa USA**

<http://www.sevencitiessod.com/>

### Go Green with Seven Cities Sod!

Seven Cities Sod is a family owned sod and turf business serving both Iowa and Illinois.

### Seven Cities Sod has been a family owned business since 1967

Our specialized Seven Cities Sod Low Mow Blend of Kentucky bluegrass includes four varieties of Kentucky bluegrass seed combined to make our unique top notch blend. We have been providing both commercial and residential customers with quality sod for projects large and small for over 45 years.

As of today, we have expanded our acreage to 650 acres, of which 400 acres is under irrigation while still providing the most up-to-date Kentucky bluegrass variety of which the industry demands. Our service area includes, but is not limited to, Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois usually within the parameters of a 150 mile radius of the Quad Cities.

### Seven Cities Sod is an Environmentally Friendly Company!

We also believe in giving back to the communities in which we serve. Seven Cities Sod donates to local youth sports teams, colleges, high schools, and lends acreage to several community organizations including the Davenport Soccer Association.

Some of our projects include:

1. Field of Dreams movie site, Dyersville, Iowa
2. University of Iowa athletic facilities, Iowa City, Iowa
3. Crow Valley Golf Course, Bettendorf, Iowa
4. Iowa Speedway (NASCAR track), Newton, Iowa
5. Jumers Casino, Rock Island, Illinois
6. Palmer Hills Golf Course, Bettendorf, Iowa
7. Modern Woodman baseball park, Davenport, Iowa
8. Chicago O'Hare airport, Chicago, Illinois
9. University of Dubuque, Dubuque, Iowa
10. St. Louis Rams (NFL) practice facility, Macomb, Illinois

Visit our **NEW** website at: <http://www.sevencitiessod.com/>



Seven Cities Sod has been a proud Member of Turfgrass Producers International since 1968





## A Financial Commitment to Turfgrass Research

University of Florida turfgrass researchers (Gainesville) have partnered with twenty-one Florida sod producers from the Florida Sod Growers Cooperative (FSGC) to form Turf Research Florida™, a grower-funded research initiative. The research group will seek out new and improved zoysiagrass varieties, particularly those that are disease resistant. Turfgrass research, development and marketing company Sod Solutions® is coordinating this cooperative effort and will be the licensing and marketing agent for new grasses resulting from the program.

"We believe the University of Florida's turfgrass breeding team is one of the top programs in the world for warm season turfgrass," said Tobey Wagner, president of Sod Solutions. "These Florida growers are of the same opinion and believe that Florida's 'grass of the future' will likely come from this research collaboration; that's why they wanted to be a part of funding it."

The primary objectives of the research will address large patch disease, drought and shade responses of experimental lines of zoysiagrass. Secondary objectives may include color retention during cooler weather and hunting billbug or caterpillar (fall armyworm and tropical sod webworm) responses.

"This program represents a new era of cooperation between the University of Florida turfgrass breeding program and industry partners," said Dr. Kevin Kenworthy, head of the zoysia-breeding program at the University. "Florida's climate makes conditions ripe for turfgrass disease. While there is no 'perfect grass,' finding a strain with an improved disease response will complement other positive attributes of zoysiagrass and bring us closer to finding the best turfgrass for Florida."

The University of Florida will conduct the research and evaluate the turfgrass performance of the experimental lines at several locations across Florida. Locations include both University research centers and partnering sod farms. As the best experimental lines are identified, larger plots will be installed on several sod farms and growers will provide information regarding establishment, harvesting, re-growth and installation of the selected lines. Release is expected within five to six years.

Sod Solutions has teamed with other universities to release to market turfgrasses in the past. The release of Bella® Bluegrass was done in partnership with the University of Nebraska, the release of NorthBridge™ and Latitude 36™ Bermudagrass was done in partnership with Oklahoma State University and the release of Captiva® St. Augustine was done in cooperation with the University of Florida.



A mighty big check for \$61,000 to support research. (L to R) Betsy McGill, Executive Director, Florida Sod Growers Cooperative; Tobey Wagner, President, Sod Solutions, Inc.; Dr. Kevin Kenworthy, Associate Professor Turf Breeding & Genetics, University of Florida / IFAS and Norma Flor, Graduate Research Assistant.

## TurfSide-UP

It seems that elk have taken over the Sandyquam neighborhood in north Boulder, Colorado. Unfortunately, biologists can't tell the local residents when or even if they'll ever get their lawns back. Adding to the dilemma, it appears that Sandyquam doesn't have any elk vagrancy laws either.



## Optional activities— TPI's SUMMER CONVENTION & FIELD DAYS



Biltmore Estate in Asheville, NC

### Optional Activities:

As part of the TPI Summer Convention and Field Days, they are offering several different activities for attendees to consider. To take part in any of these activities click the REGISTER link to the right.

**REGISTER**

(Separate registration required for optional activities)

### Agricultural Tour—Monday, July 30

Attendees will participate in a behind-the-scenes agricultural tour of the Asheville region. The tour includes lunch and stops at the following locations:

#### Mountain Horticulture Research Station



Research at the Mountain Crop Improvement Lab covers diverse projects relating to the production and improvement of nursery and bio-energy crops. A primary focus is the development of new crops with enhanced adaptability, pest

resistance, commercial merit, non-invasiveness, and sustainability. These projects often include related research on propagation, tissue culture, production, reproductive biology, genetics, cytogenetics, germplasm collection and much more.

#### Patten Seed / Super Sod



With 7 farms and 11 outlet stores in Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina, Super Sod, a division of Patten Sod Co., supplies sod and seed for both large and small projects.

#### Van Wingerden



Van Wingerden consists of 37 acres of greenhouses used year round for production of flowering plants, from African violets, bedding plants and mums to poinsettias for the Christmas season.

#### Apple Wedge Packers



Apple Wedge Packers is a fifth generation family-owned apple business located in the apple growing region of Henderson County, NC and one of the largest volume shippers of fresh apples in the entire state of North Carolina.

### Additional Options—Tuesday, July 31

#### The Lawn Institute Memorial Golf Tournament

The Legendary Grove Park Inn Golf Club framed by the splendor of the Blue Ridge Mountains is a magnificent 18-hole golf course. The tournament is in a shotgun start, scramble format so even the newest golfers can play side by side with our seasoned pros, all while competing for prizes such as closest to the pin, longest drive and longest putt.

#### Biltmore Estate Tour

The Biltmore Estate is acknowledged as America's largest home with its 250 rooms that cover 175,000 square feet. The tour includes an informative and entertaining overview about the history of Asheville, the impact of George Vanderbilt and his estate on the region, and Asheville's phenomenal art deco architecture. You will then enjoy a self-guided visit through more than 60 rooms carefully preserved by Vanderbilt's descendants, rooms appearing as they did a century ago.

#### TPI Banquet

TPI's Banquet will take place at Punccheon Camp Creek Ranch, a replica of a western town filled with a treasure trove of antiques and collectibles. This venue is not open to the public but is rolling out the red carpet exclusively for TPI. Mingle with friends among authentically crafted (to scale) buildings including a general store, post office, bank, saloon and marshal's office, before settling in at the barn for a delightful dinner followed by an evening of music and dancing.