

Midwest Fact Sheet

Sand Topdressing Programs

There are many different sand topdressing programs used by superintendents. Budgets, experience, labor, equipment availability, and play schedule are just some of the factors affecting topdressing programs. Research is ongoing in the third year at Purdue University evaluating the effectiveness of various putting green sand topdressing programs. Our research objectives are to develop specific topdressing recommendations for low ('Penncross'), medium ('L-93'), and high ('A-4') shoot density bentgrass cultivars maintained at two different annual nitrogen levels (2.3 and 4 lbs N/1000 ft²/yr). We are monitoring performance characteristics such as appearance, volumetric soil water content, surface hardness, dollar spot incidence, and moss encroachment. Additionally, the long-term changes in rootzone physical properties of a sand-based putting green rootzone topdressed with two sand sizes are being documented.

Observations to date

- Surface hardness was lower in 'A-4' and 'L-93' compared to 'Penncross'.
- Non-aerified plots yielded the firmest surface while topdressing frequently with fine sand had the softest surface.

- Volumetric water content measurements were highest in plots receiving fine topdressing sand, which correlates with surface hardness results.
- Turf quality was highest in non-aerified plots although they had significantly more dollar spot during disease outbreaks. Plots frequently topdressed with fine sand produced the lowest quality, likely because of higher percentages of moss.
- Particle size distribution was evaluated and numerous plots receiving frequent fine topdressing no longer meet USGA rootzone specifications.

For more information refer to the full text of this article on our Turf Tips web site at www.agry.purdue.edu/turf/tips/index.html as well as even more information at www.agry.purdue.edu/turf/report/2006/07.pdf See the latest results of our research at the Midwest Regional Turf Field Day on July 17.

Adam C. Moeller, graduate research assistant, Department of Agronomy, Purdue University.

Midwest Regional Turf Foundation Calendar of Events

2007

- June 1 **2007-08 MRTF Member Renewal**
July 17 **Turf Field Day,**
Daniel Center, West Lafayette
- October 11 **Golf Day,**
Coyote Crossing, West Lafayette
- November 14-15 **Turf & Ornamental Seminar,**
Daniel Center, West Lafayette
- December **Basic Training** *Fort Wayne*
December **Basic Training** *Evansville*
December **Basic Training** *Indianapolis*

2008

- January 14-16 **Indiana Green Expo,**
Indiana Convention Center, Indianapolis
- February 11-14 **IN-IL Short Course,** *Location TBD*
February 25-28 **IN-IL Short Course,** *Willowbrook, IL*

*Midwest Regional Turf Foundation
PO Box 2285
West Lafayette, IN 47996-2285*

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