Transition Zone Comparison of a Modular Athletic Field System with a Traditional Sand Based System Turfed with Bermudagrass. (C05-roberts172028-Poster)

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Abstract:

Integrated turf modular systems are relatively new technology. Evidence demonstrating the efficacy of the system is scarce. Modular turf systems can offer benefits such as easy replacement and increased drainage. Other effects of the system are not known. In an effort to asses possible benefits and resulting effects of the employment of this technology as an athletic field turf, an experiment, started in August 2001, is currently underway. Our objective is to determine the effects of root zone system, wear, and root zone depth on 'Tifsport' bermudagrass quality, greenup, rootmass, soil temperature, infiltration rates, and thatch accumulation. Integrated turf modules are compared with traditional sand based atheltic field construction at two root zone depths--15 and 20 cm. Wear is being applied to half of each plot. Preliminary results indicate that greenup in the 20 cm modules was fastest among all the treatments--possibly due to faster spring build-up of soil temperatures. Cursory results indicate that root mass, thatch mass, and infiltration rates were all higher in the 20 cm treatments.

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