Effect of Management Practices on Quality, Stability, and Biomass Accumulations of a Kentucky Bluegrass Carpet Stabilizer System. (C05-street134514-Poster)

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Abstract:

Sand based sports fields can lose surface stability resulting in surface failure. Reinforcement materials are being used to address these issues. A carpet stabilizer system comprised of polypropylene fibers and natural grass is touted to provide surface stability, shear strength, and a true playing surface. Accumulation of biomass above the system may form a discreet layer causing a shear plane between the turf and vertical fibers. A Kentucky bluegrass (Poa pratensis) area was established in July 2000 at the Ohio Turfgrass Research facility, Columbus, OH using carpet stabilizer sod on a 100% sand rootzone. Trinexapac-ethyl and a biostimulant were evaluated in various combinations with hollow coring and solid tining for biomass management and surface playing quality. Biomass accumulation is determined by loss on ignition. Treatments did not have an effect on playing quality within the preferred/acceptable ranges. Cultural practices had a limited effect on biomass thickness (cm) and total OM (g). It is determined that the netting is a more significant contributor to shear strength than the vertical fibers.

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