

# In Season Resodding

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## Reasons For In Season Resods

- Unexpected Weather
  - ▶ High volume of events during inclement weather
  - ▶ Looking ahead to weather patterns
- Vandalism
  - ▶ Fields were vandalized from vehicles or other equipment
  - ▶ Students "having fun"



## Why do we need to resod in season?




## Reasons For In Season Resods

- Event Management
  - ▶ Extra Events
    - ▶ Soccer
    - ▶ Lacrosse
    - ▶ Concerts
    - ▶ Movie/TV shoot
- Event Management
  - ▶ Hosting major event
    - ▶ College Bowl Game
    - ▶ State Championship Game
    - ▶ International Soccer
      - ▶ Over synthetic?



## Reasons For In Season Resods

- Field Logos
  - ▶ Replace endzones and other on field logos
  - ▶ In most cases painting over the logo is not an option
  - ▶ Owners, President's, GM's, Coaches expectations
- Anticipated Wear
  - ▶ Predict when the time will be for a field to wear out before it happens
  - ▶ Don't want field to begin to fail during the game or during pregame warm ups
  - ▶ Careful planning and knowing your field



## Our Story

- ▶ Field was installed in 2002, first game was in 2003
- ▶ Sodded with Kentucky bluegrass
- ▶ DD Grassmaster was installed in Spring 2003 to help support multiuse stadium
- ▶ First event was Manchester United vs FC Barcelona
- ▶ 3 consecutive sold out Bruce Springsteen concerts
- ▶ Kicked off a week later our NFL/College season



### Lincoln Financial Field



### Lincoln Financial Field

- ▶ For 4 years we stayed with cool season grasses
- ▶ Overseed every spring and have field ready by June for summer events
- ▶ No concerts for 4 years
- ▶ Emergence of cool season bermudagrasses
- ▶ Patriot and Riviera were first 2 from Oklahoma St
- ▶ Late summer of 2006, we made decision to go bermudagrass in 2007
- ▶ No other fields combined bermudagrass and DD Grassmaster

### Lincoln Financial Field



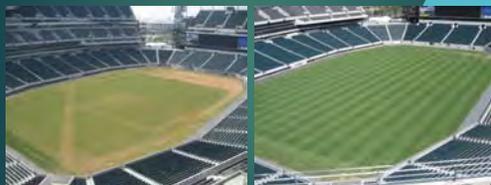
### Lincoln Financial Field

- ▶ We sprigged the field in March of 2007 with Patriot bermudagrass
- ▶ Idea was to have it established prior to a June concert with Kenny Chesney
- ▶ Following the concert, we had nothing else planned through the summer
- ▶ Had about 7-8 weeks to grow the field back in

### Lincoln Financial Field



### Lincoln Financial Field



### Lincoln Financial Field

### Resodding – Bad or Good?

- ▶ Resodding was once thought of as a failure and poor management practices by the Sports Field Manager
- ▶ No field should ever be resodded
- ▶ Should be able to throw and grow seed or have time to recover
- ▶ If inclement weather, get through the game, roll it, keep it firm and playable and players and coaches will have to deal with it until next season
- ▶ "Real Football" in the mud and on a worn down field

### Lincoln Financial Field

### Lincoln Financial Field

- ▶ 2007 and 2008, we sprigged in the Spring and then resodded late fall with Kentucky bluegrass
- ▶ Had a plan in place after 2007 to resod
- ▶ Starting in 2009, we began to resod the field with thick cut bermudagrass to start the season, due to heavy load of summer events and concerts, then resod with bluegrass in the late fall
- ▶ This is our plan for our field to this day

### Resodding – Good or Bad?

- ▶ Owner/GM/President/Coach/Player all have higher expectations than they did 15 years ago
- ▶ Field is a talking point before every game!

## Resodding – Good or Bad?



## Resodding – Good or Bad?

- ▶ Blog sites, internet stories, comments sections ...
- ▶ NFL Fan websites
- ▶ National news websites
- ▶ Network TV shows
- ▶ Small stories grow into national news stories in no time and without much information via all these sites

## Resodding – Good or Bad?

- ▶ Emergence of HD TV in the early 2000's



## Organizational Philosophies

- ▶ Have a desirable city that can attract national and international events and an owner that welcomes these events but wants natural grass
- ▶ We had to find ways to compete with other stadiums while maintaining a field that was safe and playable, but also one that would look good throughout the year in person and on TV
- ▶ Team executives talk to one another
- ▶ Competition for events amongst stadiums
- ▶ Not only NFL but with MLB
- ▶ Money being made hosting events that offsets cost for sod

## Resodding – Good or Bad?

- ▶ Social Media



## Whose Field Is It?

- ▶ It's not my field, it's our owner's field...
- ▶ Our job is to understand the goals of the club and to find solutions that make business sense and the club money
- ▶ We do not want the field to be the story, but if so, in a positive light for our organization
- ▶ We have come up with a Plan A and Plan B for every situation
- ▶ Our role as Sports Field Manager in this type of position is now similar to an Event Manager
  - ▶ Need to manage the event through load in/load out and prepare a safe field for the next event

## The Annual Plan

- ▶ In the late fall and early winter, the event calendar starts to take shape
- ▶ We know of 10 NFL games, 7 NCAA games including Army/Navy, concerts and soccer matches
- ▶ Maybe a few things we don't find out until later but this is where we have to be flexible but yet start planning things out
- ▶ We will not find out the NFL schedule until April, and the NCAA schedule until February
- ▶ Our mid season sod schedule will be based on these schedules being released

## Bermudagrass Sod

- ▶ In the summer, we will sod our field with bermudagrass that is 1.5" thick
- ▶ Usually happens shortly after concerts and before our 1<sup>st</sup> preseason game or an open practice for the public
- ▶ The sod is grown on plastic to allow for a quick turnaround for on field activity
- ▶ Takes about 2 days to completely sod the field, 1 day to prep the sod and then can be played on by any sport, any level
- ▶ Sod weight is about 13 lbs/sq ft

## The Annual Plan



## Bermudagrass Sod

- ▶ Get to know the sod grower and past work they have done
- ▶ Make phone calls around to check on quality, consistency, and any other information you can gather
- ▶ Once you have identified a sod grower, make site visits
- ▶ We do about once a month from May through the time we sod
- ▶ Take pictures, look at weather patterns at both the farm and in your town – could weather impact trucking, harvesting, installation?
- ▶ Take soil and tissue tests
- ▶ Could harvesting sod after the sun goes down in the summer improve the quality?
- ▶ Could shipping in a boxed/refrigerated trailer improve the quality?

## Bermudagrass Sod

- ▶ We begin our conversations in the early part of the year, about January for our needs throughout the year
- ▶ This will give the grower time to prepare sites on the sod farm, acquire additional materials if needed to accommodate the dates for sodding
- ▶ At this time, we'll address delivery times for the sodding installation and other conflicts that could occur
- ▶ We'll review fertilizers, growth regulators, fungicides, topdressing materials, and other pertinent information to produce the best quality sod available

## Bermudagrass Sod



## Bermudagrass Sod



## Kentucky Bluegrass Sod

- ▶ Need to ask the same questions and do the same homework
- ▶ Have a sod farm close by, about 40 min away
- ▶ Our conversations begin about 14 months before
- ▶ The same time the fields are seeded
- ▶ Fields are prepped as if they were on our stadium – topdressing, growth regulator, fertilizer, irrigation
- ▶ Consider the growth pattern of Kentucky bluegrass
- ▶ At it's weakest in August and September – could lead to playability issues and poor footing
- ▶ Sod weight is about 17 lbs/sq ft

## Bermudagrass Sod

- ▶ Who is installing your sod – the sod supplier or another contractor?
- ▶ If it's another contractor, meet with them so they understand what kind of sod they will be handling
- ▶ Questions to be addressed:
  - ▶ Is the sod 42" or 48"?
  - ▶ Will it have netting?
  - ▶ Are the rolls on pallets?
  - ▶ Who is unloading the sod?
  - ▶ How long are the rolls and how much will each roll weigh?
  - ▶ Who has the truck driver contacts?

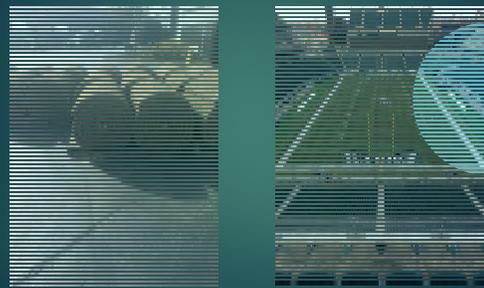
## Kentucky Bluegrass Sod



## Bermudagrass Sod

- ▶ Depending on the distance your sod farm is from your site, these are all important details
- ▶ Chances are, if you are dealing with thick cut sod of any type, you will need the field playable shortly after installation and don't have time to work out the kinks that you normally would with thin cut sod
- ▶ Do not sacrifice quality
- ▶ If you do not like what you see on a truck, turn it around or place pallets off to the side to be used on areas of the field that would be considered out of play

## Kentucky Bluegrass Sod



## Post Sod Maintenance




## Issues





## Post Sod Maintenance



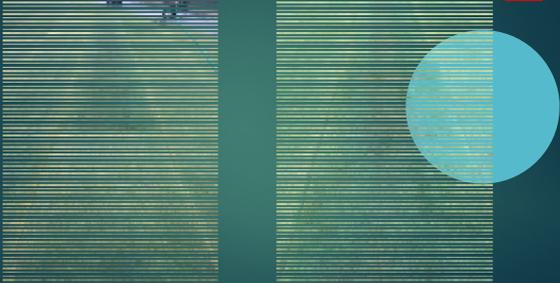
## Issues

- ▶ Scalding of the grass more common with bermudagrass
- ▶ Can occur with excess moisture in the sod roll and high temperatures
- ▶ Can also occur on the surface when covered and traveling during the day
- ▶ Happens quickly, less than an hour or two after being rolled up
- ▶ Don't panic! Damage is tip burn and usually grows out within a week or so

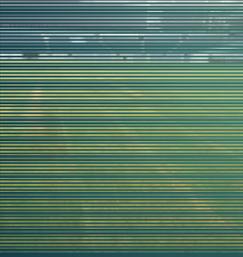
## Issues

- ▶ Truck breaks down – perishable item on a truck in 90 degree weather
- ▶ Rains on the way to job site
- ▶ Tarp the load with windscreen or a solid tarp
- ▶ How much does the solid tarp heat up the roll on top
- ▶ Accident on the highway shuts down traffic
- ▶ Rains at the sod farm during harvesting
- ▶ Tarps at sod farm to cover grass?
- ▶ Sod freezes on way to job site
  - ▶ Do you have room to store inside?

## Issues



## Issues

## Field Painting

- ▶ Army Navy Game



## Field Painting

- ▶ Hosting Temple Football



## Field Painting

- ▶ Army Navy Game




## Field Painting

- ▶ We will paint Temple endzone logos when the Eagles don't have a game the next day
- ▶ When we do paint their endzones, they pay for the replacement of the grass in the endzone which is done within a few days of the game



## Anticipated Wear

- ▶ We know based on history, how many games our field can take
- ▶ Look at the game schedules and try to find a 2 week window where we can replace the center of the field
- ▶ Time it with when Temple wants to paint their endzones, or they want to host an onfield event following the game
- ▶ For this resod, we use bermudagrass grown on plastic



### Anticipated Wear




### Unexpected Weather





### Anticipated Wear





### Vandalism





### Unexpected Weather





### Non Sporting Events

- ▶ Concerts, comedy shows, band competitions, corporate dinners and other events on field that damage the surface
- ▶ Work very closely with all parties and be part of every meeting
- ▶ Over communicate and document everything
- ▶ What works best for the client and the building
- ▶ Do cost comparisons
  - ▶ For example, will it cost more to cover and uncover a stage roadway every day, or leave roadway down and resod it after?



## Concerts

- ▶ Questions we have to ask internally
  - ▶ What other events do we have around this time?
  - ▶ Do we remove the field before or after concert?
  - ▶ What internal events do we have?
  - ▶ How much time do we have before and after?



## Concerts



## Concerts

- ▶ Some concerts, we only replace roadways



## 2016 – Summer of Fun

- ▶ May 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> NCAA Lacrosse Championships
- ▶ After last game, removed the field
- ▶ May 31, began to lay floor for Beyonce concert on June 5
- ▶ Received field June 7<sup>th</sup> around 9 am and began laying sod
- ▶ Sod was completed by 7 pm
- ▶ Soccer practice on June 8<sup>th</sup>, with games on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup>
- ▶ Field removed, and flooring installed for Kenny Chesney on June 25<sup>th</sup> and Guns and Roses on July 14<sup>th</sup>
- ▶ Field installed July 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> for an open practice on July 24<sup>th</sup>
- ▶ Removed 30,000 sq ft of sod for concert on Aug 6<sup>th</sup>
- ▶ 30,000 sq ft reinstalled for preseason game on Aug 11<sup>th</sup>



## Concerts



## Lacrosse



### Lacrosse



### Following Concerts



### COPA

- ▶ Originally, started as replacing 60,000 sq ft, but soccer came to us a week before and wanted the entire field replaced, another 40,000 sq ft



### Open Practice



### COPA



### Concert



