

## Organic Gem Success at Tunxis Mead Soccer Field

On July 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2002, 65,000 sq. feet of sod was laid on a soccer field at Tunxis Mead Park in Farmington, CT. The temperature that day was 96 degrees. The sod looked great at the end of the day and it was getting plenty of water.

The irrigation system started to fail on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, but nobody noticed. July 4<sup>th</sup> is a national holiday, and July 5<sup>th</sup> was a Friday, on which the town gave its employees the day off. The field was not looked at again until Saturday afternoon. At that time it was discovered that the irrigation system had failed. The temperature over these days would reach 100 degrees. The town worked tirelessly to get the system working again, but that effort took until Monday morning, the 7<sup>th</sup> of July.

This new sod went four days with little or no water in excessive heat, the lowest daytime temperature over these days was 94 degrees. Needless to say 80 percent of the sod that was laid was dead. It was dirt brown, and had no white (living) roots visible. This tends to mean that your sod is dead and needs to be replaced.

With roughly 50,000 sq. ft. of dead sod, Kevin D'Amico, the town's head of Parks and Golf Course Superintendent, asked me what I thought we could do. He could either rip up the dead sod and replace it, which would not make his bosses happy, or try a new product called **Organic Gem** that might work. He decided that he would give the **Organic Gem** a try. We weren't sure it would work, but it was a much cheaper to at least try it. The first application was made on July 9<sup>th</sup> at a rate of 2 gallons per acre. The second application, a week later on the 16<sup>th</sup> at a rate of 1 gallon per acre. By the 18<sup>th</sup>, about 10 days later, 75 percent of the dead sod had either come back to life or was showing signs of life. A third application was made on July 23<sup>rd</sup> at a rate of ½ gallon per acre, and a fourth application on the 30<sup>th</sup> of July also at ½ gallon per acre.

By Monday, the 4<sup>th</sup> of August, only 2,000 sq. feet of the 50,000 sq. feet that was dead was still dead and not coming back.

This is the only time in my life I have ever seen dead sod come back to life. It was 100 percent due to **Organic Gem**. No other products were used at all to aid in the recovery of the turf, other than lots of water. The field had games played on it two weeks later and is still doing great. Everyone, especially Kevin D'Amico, was thrilled we did not have to replace the sod at a great expense. We saved about 48,000 sq. feet of sod from being replaced.

Sincerely yours,

Sean Moran, SODCO