

MISSOURI TIGERS PRANCE ON OMNI-TURF

Faurot Field at the University of Missouri, Columbia, was the only Big Eight field with natural turf. University officials decided last year they could hold onto their unique position and keep the 58-year-old sod, or join the rest of the conference. After all, they are the home state for artificial turf with Monsanto located in St. Louis.

Being true to the state symbol of a stubborn mule, the University of Missouri did neither. Instead they selected a two-year-old concept in field surfaces, Omniturf.

Omniturf, by Sportec International in



University of Missouri athletic staff inspects new Omniturf surface at Faurot Field before the opening game. They are (right to left) quarterback coach Wright Anderson, new head coach Woody Widenhofer, asst. athletic director Jim Castigleone, and defensive coordinator Jim McKinley.

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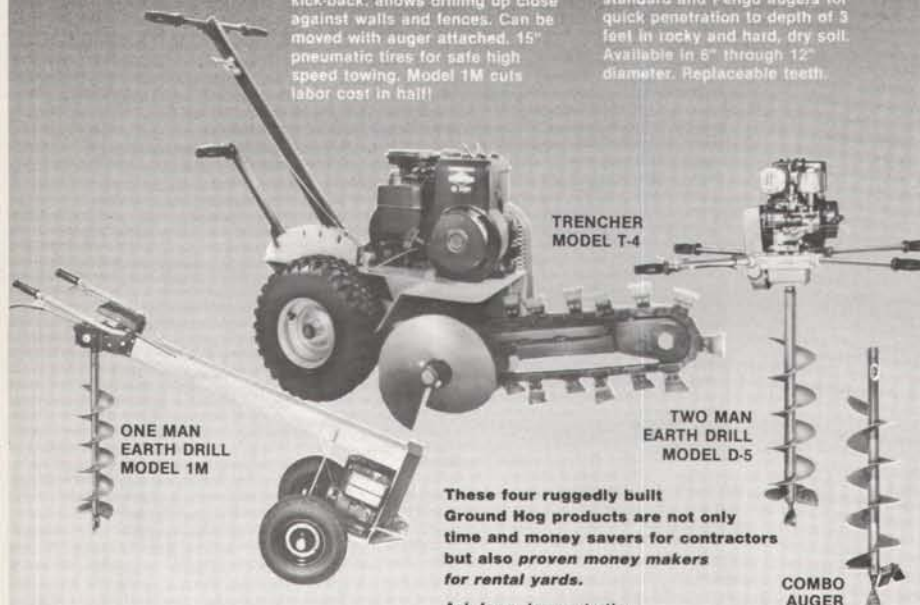
Right angle drive prevents torque kick-back, allows drilling up close against walls and fences. Can be moved with auger attached. 15" pneumatic tires for safe high speed towing. Model 1M cuts labor cost in half!

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Kenmore, NY, is a sand-topdressed polypropylene fiber, porous carpet supported by separate underpad and sub-base. Sand helps create cushion, percolate water through the surface, and reduce footlock-related injuries. Inlaid colored fibers for the lines and team symbols eliminate layers of paint on the carpet and painting costs.

Omniturf was first introduced to football at the University of Oregon in 1984. Since then it has been installed at the University of Missouri; James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA; Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA; and Buffalo State University, Buffalo, NY. High schools installing the surface include Westlake High School, Austin, TX; Union High School, Broken Arrow, OK; and Stadium High School, Tacoma, WA.

The makers of the new surface point out that teams playing on their surface seem to gain more yardage. Washington State University's Reuben Mays set an NCAA single-game rushing record of 357 yards on the University of Oregon's Autzen Field in October. Oregon's Tony Cherry, the leading rusher in the Pac-10, has had more than two 100-yard performances this fall on Omniturf. In the Duck's home opener against Stanford, Cherry tallied 249 yards.

YEAR-ROUND SCHOOL MAY OVERLOAD FIELDS

California and other Sun Belt states are facing a tremendous influx of students as northerners move South. California has another problem; Proposition 13 which restricts the increase of property taxes. The best solution to overcrowding, according to Bill Honig, state Superintendent of Public Instruction, is year-round school.

Al Nociolo, principal of a Saugus, CA, elementary school on year-round teaching, explained that the individual school receives a certain amount of money for each student (roughly \$2,000). By going year-round he can increase his student population by nearly 25 percent, increasing the school's funding from the state by the same amount.

Expensive new school construction is temporarily delayed by current schools absorbing a quarter more students. But older schools may have to add air conditioning to help students concentrate in summer heat. Bottom line is year-round schools save about 20 percent of school expenditures says Honig.

The primary concern of the state superintendent is education, not sports. Summer use of sports fields may force summer leagues to find other fields to use. Field maintenance will need to be improved to get fields through summer use and still have them ready for fall.