**THE NEEDLE IN THE HAYSTACK**

Simple mathematics is all it takes to figure out that the surface of the sports turf industry has barely been scratched. There are untold millions of acres of athletic turf in the U.S. that need professional care badly. While recent efforts have begun to make a dent, the condition of these turf areas remains unsafe for one simple reason — finding the person in charge is like finding a needle in a haystack.

It's not a matter of placing blame, it's a matter of recognizing those who have the ability and power to do something about the safety of sports turf nationally.

The improvement of millions of acres of athletic turf can start with the two organizations serving the market. Get them involved. Let me know how things go. If you are successful, you take every opportunity to educate the ultimate decisionmakers and fellow sports turf managers about better turf management, you hold the future of the industry in your hands.

**FEBRUARY**

**29-2**

Midwest Regional Turf Conference, Stewart Center, Purdue University, W. Lafayette, IN. Contact Jeff Lefton, Dept. of Agronomy, Purdue University, W. Lafayette, IN 47907, (317) 494-9737.

**29-2**

Massachusetts Turfgrass Conference and Show, Springfield Civic Center, Springfield, MA. Contact: Dr. Joe Troll, Massachusetts Turf Council, PO Box 489, Hadley, MA 01035, (413) 549-5295.

**MARCH**

**2**

Professional Turf and Plant Conference, Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, Uniondale, NY. Contact: Nassau/Suffolk County Landscape Gardeners Association, 59 Orinoco Dr., Brightwaters, NY 11718, (516) 665-2250.

**6-10**

Canadian Turfgrass Conference, Toronto Hilton Harbour Castle Convention Center, Toronto, ON. Contact: Mary Gurney, Canadian Golf Course Superintendents Association, 2000 Weston Rd., Weston, Ontario, Canada M9N 1X3, (416) 249-7304.

**APRIL**

**7**

South Florida Turfgrass Exposition, Ft. Lauderdale Research and Education Center, Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Contact: Dr. John Cisar, 3205 SW College Ave., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33314, (305) 475-8990.

**11-12**

Southeastern Turfgrass Conference, Coastal Plain Experiment Station, Tifton, GA. Contact: Dr. Glenn Burton, Coastal Plain Experiment Station, Tifton, GA 31793, (912) 386-3353.