At every sports event, spectators focus on two things, the athletes and the condition of the field. Both the athletes and the spectators enjoy a higher sense of enjoyment and competition when an event is played in a cool, well-groomed, verdant arena.

There is nothing more discouraging to athletes than trying to play their best on muddy, turfless sports fields. They know that it is virtually impossible to perform at their best on mud and water.

Artificial turf is not the answer. The basic problem is we simply do not have enough sports turf managers to satisfy the need. As a matter of fact, the position of sports turf manager is practically nonexistent. People who are trained in growing and managing sports fields are quickly absorbed by sales organizations and other better paying positions.

Just as every golf course has a superintendent who is responsible for the entire course and the grounds, all types of sports facilities should have a sports turf manager. Producing acceptable, injury-free turf should not be delegated to school principles, coaches, custodians or civic-minded citizens. Seldom, if ever, have these people been properly trained in the art and science of turfgrass culture.

Every school district should have an overall turfgrass manager for its entire grounds and a job description to fit these responsibilities. The same is true of many municipal park and recreation departments. They spend a great deal of money on recreational programs which put greater pressure on existing turf facilities. But ask to see their sports turf manager and you meet with blank stares. There is no such person. Many private schools, colleges and other sports facilities fall into the same category.

As a result, millions of dollars of public and private money is wasted each year. Most of these dollars are spent on unqualified or unsupervised labor, poor quality seed or sod, wrong fertilizers, heavy weed-infested soil, poorly selected chemicals, and poorly-designed maintenance equipment.

It seems that more grass is killed by poor management than it is possible to grow. This results from the wrong type of mowers, wrong height of cut, lack of sensible mowing schedules, aerification or verticutting, and bad irrigation systems and schedules.

When new fields are constructed, no knowledgeable person is on the job to see that the work is being done properly and according to specifications. Low bidders, who have little knowledge of good sports field construction, will sometimes bury stones, rocks and other debris which can surface later to cause injury.

It is time to wake up and correct this appalling situation. When administrators refuse to recognize the seriousness of this situation, insurance companies will.

There is no defense for not knowing where to turn for help. The Sports Turf Managers Association, the National Sports Turf Council, the Professional Grounds Management Society recently, then you’re in for a surprise. We’re offering a bundle of new benefits that make joining PGMS more rewarding than ever! Here’s what we’ve been up to and how you can benefit:

- **ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW** - The yearly forum bringing together grounds managers, top speakers, and suppliers for the sharing of knowledge and ideas.
- **NEWSLETTERS** - A newsletter is mailed monthly to keep members current on the affairs of the Society and the latest developments critical to successful grounds management.
- **CERTIFICATION** - Voluntary peer review of acceptable competence to enable you to become a Certified Grounds Manager.
- **RESEARCH AND SURVEYS** - Information on operational practices is gathered for dissemination of all members.
- **INSURANCE** - Included in your membership fee is $5,000,000 accident and dismemberment insurance.
- **AWARDS** - Members are recognized for outstanding achievement in grounds management. Annual Grounds Maintenance Awards Contest.
- **THREE MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES**
- **WORKSHOPS, EMPLOYMENT SERVICE, CAR RENTAL DISCOUNTS**

No matter how large or small your operation, PGMS is your source for the best, most meaningful grounds management information and help. Your membership investment goes to work for you immediately — that’s the PGMS promise. Join now and grow with us!

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**Grounds Managers**

**This Is What PGMS Is Doing For You**

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Send me more information on what PGMS can do for me.

Name ____________________________
Company _________________________
Street ___________________________
City & State _______________________
Zip _____________________________
Phone ___________________________
Almost every state has a turfgrass specialist to answer your question as part of the Agricultural Extension Service. We also have many excellent magazines that publish timely articles and supply information.

Where will these needed sports turf managers come from? There are many people who qualify for the position of sports turf manager. It's just that no one has recognized them. They have been lost in old, archaic systems of administration. It is time to change the system and move these people into positions of responsibility and authority.

New sports turf managers will come from students entering this growing field of turfgrass management. These people, after serving as assistants under experienced managers, will be ready to take responsibility as managers themselves. Even golf course superintendents are becoming sports turf managers.

The sports turf manager should make up and administer the budget, develop forecasts of future sports needs and manage the work force for maintenance. He should have the authority to purchase the proper equipment and supplies. He should be paid a staff position salary with benefits to attract and hold him.

A sports turf manager more than earns his salary in direct savings resulting from more efficient use of labor, specifying the proper materials and better turfgrass management programs. Insurance rates can be held in line and even lowered when a knowledgeable person is in charge. Most important of all is minimizing injuries to players.

Who is responsible for fractured bones and painful injuries? Responsibility begins with the administrator at the top. Unless he moves to bring physical education programs and sports turf management into perspective, all of the blame will be on his shoulders.

No longer is there an excuse for the negligence of this nationwide problem. Information and help to set up workable sports turf management programs is only as far away as the phone.

Everyone loves sports. Everyone wants to help. But those that are knowledgeable in sports turf management can make it happen.

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**PORT CHARLOTTE**

It is with great pleasure that I could read in your March 1988 issue of *sportsTURF* about one of the best groundskeepers in all of professional sports, namely Tom Burns, in your article "A Star For The Texas Rangers.

I am so privileged to have had the opportunity to work with such an outstanding young man. For him, I am very happy that he is receiving some long overdue credit for his efforts in his chosen profession. Sarge Anderson, Camp Coordinator California Angels