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MAIN EVENTS

8 WINNING TACTICS FOR HANDLING UNWANTED WATER

Infield puddles or outfield bogs, excess water on athletic fields is detrimental to turf health, aesthetics, playability and safety. Combatting the problem requires integration of effective drainage, proper cultural practices and, when necessary, several water control and removal tools.

14 STMA PROFILE: CREATIVE FINANCING PAYS DIAMOND DIVIDEND AT MUNDELEIN HIGH

As new grounds foreman at Mundelein High School in Illinois, Scott Gaunky stepped onto a baseball diamond with a sorry past and a dismal future — no funds for reconstruction were available. Undaunted, Gaunky rallied the community, turf product suppliers and turf professionals to help transform the diamond into one of the finest in the area.

18 SPOT MANAGEMENT: KEEPING HIGH-USE AREAS IN PLAY

More than visually unappealing, worn spots on athletic fields caused by excessive traffic present a safety hazard to players. The best defense is a strong offense, minimizing traffic in these areas through field rotation. However, when that's not possible there are number of steps you can take to bring worn spots back to health.

22 ROAD TO HEAVY-DUTY VEHICLE SELECTION

Today's heavy-duty utility vehicles offer far more than basic transportation — they can be an integral element of your overall turf maintenance program. With the range of choices in the turf utility vehicle market, adding a heavy-duty model to your equipment arsenal can boost your crew's productivity. Here are a few basics to look for when you buy.

LINE-UP

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ON THE COVER: Proper maintenance of baseball diamond skinned areas prevents low spots and lips that can lead to infield puddling during rainstorms. Atlanta Fulton County Stadium, photo courtesy: Aimcor.