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MAIN EVENTS

10 Grounds Crew Safety Practices

Parks Supervisor Scott Mclean offers a checklist of six safety-related items that crews routinely need to consider when preparing fields. Since fields should not always take center stage, he also offers a checklist designed to keep crews safe.

14 From a Player's Perspective

A University of Kentucky standout drafted by the Arizona Diamondbacks, Chip Rhea views baseball fields more critically than most players. He's an agronomy major — and he shares, from a player's perspective, what he likes and doesn't like in a ball field.

16 Winterizing Pump Stations

If a few simple steps are taken each year, a pump station will be ready for action come next spring. In some areas, winterization begins this month.

18 The Greening of Brown

While some may think that an Ivy League school might resist change, this does not hold true when it comes to athletic field management at Brown. The university's new irrigation system is an excellent example of the school's look to the future.

24 Maintaining a Uniform Playing Surface

Uniform water movement through the rootzone helps ensure uniform turf. For hydrophobic soils, wetting agents often give sports turf managers the winning edge.

26 Olympic Softball's Invisible Gold Medalists

The U.S. women's team won the Olympic gold medal for softball in front of a packed stadium and a nationwide TV audience. Behind the scenes, a second, unofficial gold medal went to the stadium's grounds crew, who turned in a "simply amazing" performance to give the players an error-free field.

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On the Cover: The New York Mets' training facility at St. Lucie County Sports Complex in Port St. Lucie, FL, receives early morning irrigation. Photo courtesy: Hunter Industries.