

Low-Budget Water Removal

By Floyd Perry

Today, many major conferences require full infield tarps to save wasted weekends and departmental travel expenses. That's fine for the big boys, but what about the rest of us? How do we create an opportunity to play after some serious rain?

Illustrated here are methods that will help. They include three tricks that have proven themselves successful for removing standing water: (1) blow-packs, (2) sponges and (3) pumps. Also included here are methods for drying clay surfaces and preventing standing water by installing French drains.



The high-powered blow-pack, which spreads water to dry areas without disturbing the clay, is an easy way to handle shallow bodies of water.



Large sponges can be made from mattresses and emptied in a turf area.



Hand pumps (or small gas-powered pumps) work in puddles one to two inches deep or deeper and can drain water into a turf area, a bucket or a cart. Photo courtesy: Kuranda U.S.A.



Calcined clay (and other drying agents) can soak up puddles that are less than two inches deep.



After calcined clay has been raked smooth, a field should be ready within about 20 minutes.

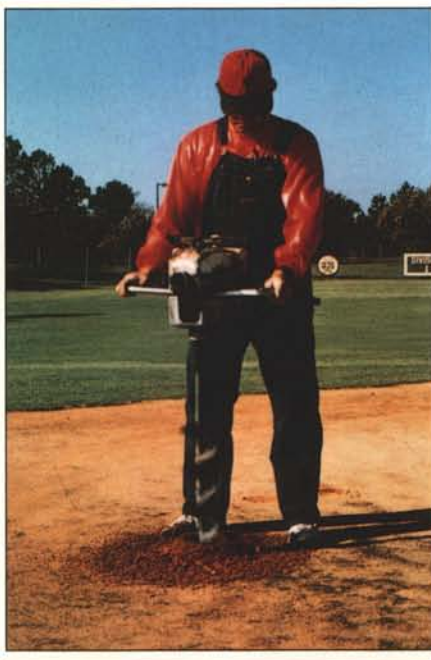
Drying the Surface

The biggest problem that occurs is how to dry the clay surface after removing the water, especially on days when it is cloudy or overcast. If your surface is something like Stabilizer Red — which dries exceptionally fast — then you shouldn't be concerned. But if your surface has a high clay content, then a drying agent such as a Turface calcined clay should be added.

Two particle sizes of calcined clay are on the market, and both offer high quality results. The fine-ground is more of a puddle removing particle, whereas the larger size is for drying and reducing slippage. With a little raking of the new additive to the existing clay material, your field should be acceptable to any umpire within 20 minutes after the rain.

As coaches and groundskeepers, we all know rain is coming. It's a matter of "when" and not "if." The biggest time-saving part of the "wet field scenario" is having the correct materials and supplies on hand and within close

continued on page 24



French Drain — Step One. Use a fence-post auger (which can be rented) and dig multiple holes into the heavily compacted soil. For larger areas, a telephone-pole auger can be used.



French Drain — Step Two. Attempt to go as deep as you can to remove all excess compacted sub-surface material.

YOUR ONE-STOP SOURCE FOR AMERICA'S LEADING BASEBALL SURFACES & SUPPLIES!



USED BY OVER 100 PRO TEAMS!
PLUS 8 OF THE LAST 10 WORLD SERIES CHAMPS,
OVER 500 COLLEGES, AND THOUSANDS OF
TOWNS & SCHOOLS WORLDWIDE!

800-247-BEAM

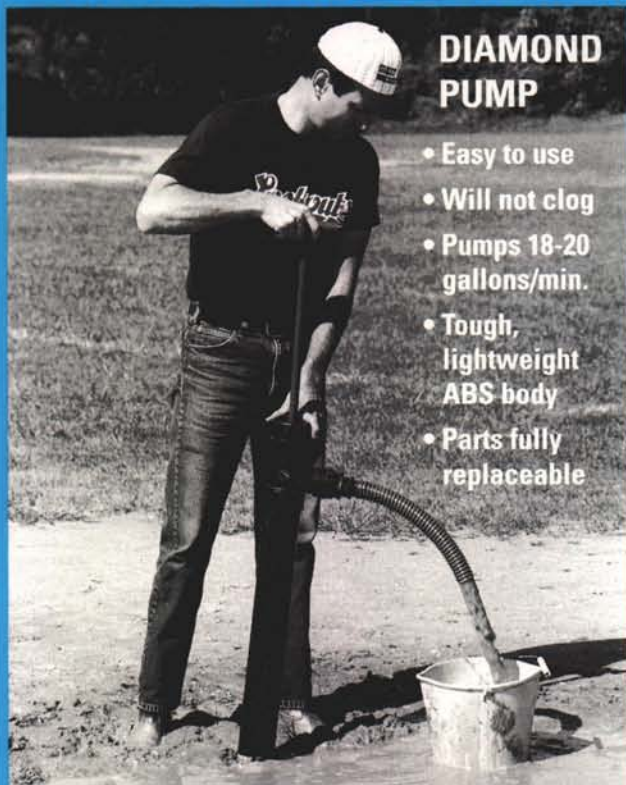
FAX: 908-637-8421 908-637-4191 GSA #GS-07F-6143A

DISTRIBUTION CENTERS NATIONWIDE!
OVER 200 INFIELD PRODUCTS
FREE INSTRUCTIONAL BROCHURES

Introducing REGIONAL INFIELD MIXES
BLENDED FOR YOUR STATE & CLIMATE!

Call 1(800) 817-1889 use **Fast Fax #1100497** and/or
Circle 110 on Postage Free Card

PREVENT RAIN OUTS!



DIAMOND PUMP

- Easy to use
- Will not clog
- Pumps 18-20 gallons/min.
- Tough, lightweight ABS body
- Parts fully replaceable

Kuranda USA, Inc. • 1-800-752-5308
P.O. Box 6651, Annapolis, MD 21401

Circle 111 on Postage Free Card

Removing Water

continued from page 23

proximity to the field. Besides calcined clay, other drying agents include calcined diatomaceous earth (such as Play Ball!) and corn-husk byproducts (such as Diamond-Dry).



French Drain — Step Three. Fill holes with less dense material, such as sand, pea gravel or small rocks.



French Drain — Step Four. Tamp approximately two inches of loose clay over the opening for consistent and even playing surfaces.

French Drains and Severe Standing Water

On certain sections of infield clay, due to extreme compaction or a hard-soil make-up, puddles of water will remain



COVER HANDLING SYSTEM

This lightweight roller can be made to any length from 20' to 50'. Complete with end caps for extra safety.



NEW!

THE TARP MACHINE™

The easy way to roll large field covers. Attaches to P.T.O. system on your tractor.

CALL FOR FREE VIDEO!

Raincover Plus™ is the ultimate infield protection cover. Developed by Covermaster's technical research, test results* show that its special color combination reduces potential heat build up under the cover better than any other cover. It's also stronger, lightweight and easy to handle.

**COVERMASTER
COVERMASTER
COVERMASTER**

MASTERS IN THE ART OF SPORTS SURFACE COVERS

Call us for a sample and full details of the latest in raincover technology.

* Available upon request.

CALL TOLL FREE AT 1-800-387-5808



MEMBER OF:

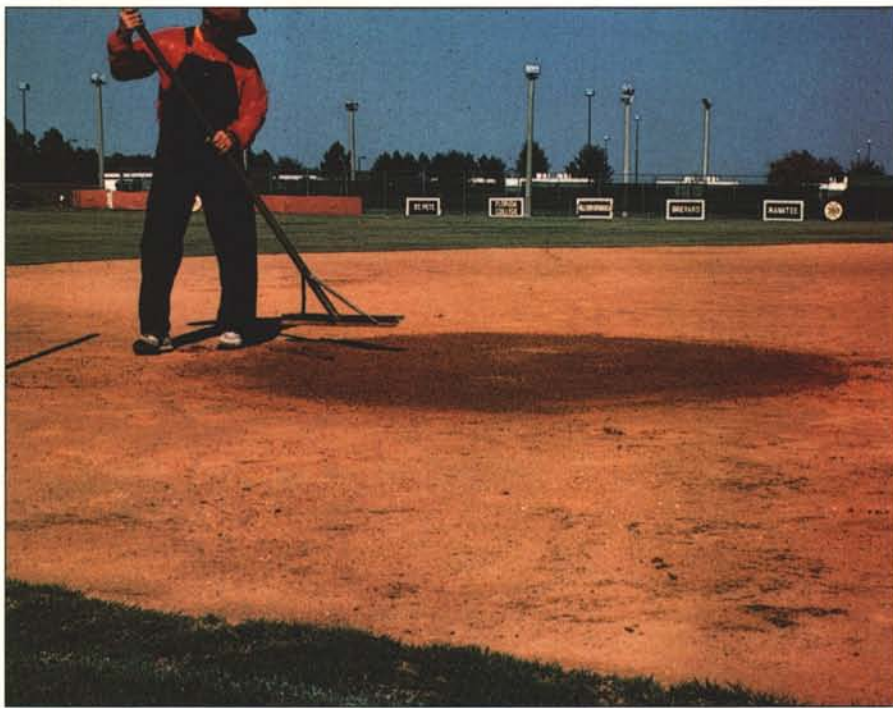
COVERMASTER INC., 100 WESTMORE DR., 11-D, REXDALE, ON, M9V 5C3 TEL 416-745-1811 FAX 416-74-COVER (742-6837)

long after other surface water has percolated. The "French drain" technique shown here is effective for both clay surfaces and outfield turf areas. Some field managers have reported using telephone-pole augers to dig large holding holes in outfields — which have saved games by removing large amounts of rain water from the playing field.

Try this technique first on a small section of a field to see how well it works in your area. Then, if it works for you, try it in larger areas.

Whatever the outcome, you should evaluate your individual water problem and chart a course of action, since prolonged standing water is a serious problem.

The above article comes from Chapter 10, "Water Removal and French Drains," of Floyd Perry's Pictorial Guide to Quality Groundskeeping — Covering All the Bases. For more information call (800) 227-9381.



French Drain — Step Five. Rake smooth and finish drag. Apply large amounts of water to check your drainage. Then wait for the first big rain to reap rewards.

**#1 SELLING
Sports Field
Conditioners
In The World**

TURFACE®

**MANDATORY
EQUIPMENT
for
MAXIMIZING
Athletic
Performance
& Safety™**



TURFACE® MVP®

- ✓ Conditions Infields
- ✓ Reduces Compaction
- ✓ Absorbs Water

TURFACE® Quick Dry®

- ✓ Eliminates Puddles
- ✓ Works Over and Over



AIMCOR

750 Lake Cook Road, Suite 440 • Buffalo Grove, IL 60089 • 1-800-207-6457