

# ROOKIES

## Vigoro and UHS Form Alliance

IMC Vigoro has formed a business alliance with United Horticultural Supply (UHS) of Tampa, Fla., to represent IMC Vigoro's turf fertilizer products throughout Florida.

The alliance calls for UHS to market and sell Par ex fertilizers, containing IBDU slow release nitrogen and V-Cote controlled release nitrogen and potash, to golf course superintendents and landscape companies.

**Steve Jackson**, Gulf States division manager for UHS, will head up the UHS sales team.

UHS has sales offices in Delray Beach, Ft. Pierce, Hastings, Immokalee, Parrish and Waverly, Fla. IMC Vigoro is headquartered in Winter Haven, Fla.

## Chiefs Choose Magnum and Fairfax

For Arrowhead Stadium, the Kansas City Chiefs have "drafted" Royal Seeds' Magnum Perennial Ryegrass Blend: three improved perennial ryegrasses featuring Omni, Royal's wear-tolerant, endophyte-enhanced perennial rye. A bluegrass blend featuring Fairfax Kentucky bluegrass will be used with it. According to a Royal Seeds press release, "Fairfax is the top-rated bluegrass for wear tolerance and sod strength."

The turf areas outside Arrowhead Stadium are being planted with Royal's Turf Tall Fescue Blend, which features Bonanza II.

For the third consecutive year, the Kansas City Chiefs have chosen Royal Seeds of St. Joseph, Mo., as its exclusive supplier of grass seed for all Chiefs facilities, including Arrowhead Stadium, practice fields and the training camp facilities in River Falls, Wis.

## Lofts Joins Rescue of Giants Stadium

The turfgrass sod being used for the state-of-the-art, transportable natural field at Giants Stadium contains two Lofts Seed varieties, Ram I and 1757. The innovative field is necessary because one of the stadium's tenants, the New York/New Jersey MetroStars, requires a natural turf for their major league soccer games, but Giants Stadium is fitted with artificial turf.

The project involves covering the artificial surface with 6,100 turfgrass modules, each 48 inches square.

"We are excited to be involved with this project. My hope is that the Giants and Jets will give up the artificial turf and decide to play on Lofts turfgrass varieties, too," says **Ken Budd**, president of Lofts Seed. The Giants and Jets are evaluating the performance of the transportable field this year and may consider converting to the natural grass system next year.

## Toro Devises Green Scale

Turf managers have been known to agonize over the color of their turf. Healthy grass has not always translated into the greenest in the eyes of all those scrutinizing the turf. From owners to spectators, everyone has a different opinion of green.

For more than three years now, The Toro Co.'s Diagnostic Services have been using near infrared reflectance spectroscopy (NIRS) to analyze grass nutrients and provide turf managers with specialized prescriptions for growing healthy turf. During the Florida Turfgrass Association's annual show, Toro introduced turf analysis equations for bermudagrass, known as the Universal Green Turf Scale (UGTS), to scientifically monitor and measure nutrition levels that result in green grass.

With UGTS, Toro can analyze the greenness of the grass and prescribe nutrient applications, based on Toro's equations, to bring turf to a healthy green.

## Rice Tries Latest Technology

Rice University's new football practice field has a rootzone that includes 90% sand and 10% Fieldschoice, a soil amendment from Premier Environmental Products. The field was sodded with Texas-certified Tifway 419 bermuda.

Jim Eagle of Eagle Turf in Fort Worth, Texas, was a consultant to the project for Lamb & Barger Engineers of Houston. "Lamb & Barger wanted a rootzone mixture that incorporated the latest technology for growing ... grass," said Eagle. "By using Fieldschoice, the practice field will drain well and the problems associated with compaction will be ... reduced. We anticipate fast growth of the rootzone — within two to three weeks, the roots will be three to five inches deep."

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ing. Immediate pick-up of cores eliminates the smashing that occurs when the cores are driven over by other methods used for harvesting. A finishing roller smooths the turf where the cores were extracted. The rake has steel knives or rubber fingers which are interchangeable depending upon the type of soil being treated.



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