



June 15-16

The Environmental Horticulture Integrated Pest Management Conference, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA. Contact: Bob Rice, (805) 756-2830.

July 6-10

Floyd Perry's Groundskeeper's Management Academy, Millington, TN. Phone: (800) 227-9381.

July 16-18

Turfgrass Producers International's (TPI) Summer Convention & Field Days, Sheraton Premier, Tysons Corner, VA. Contact: TPI, (800) 405-8873; or Tom Ford, (847) 705-9898.

July 25-27

International Lawn, Garden & Power Equipment Expo, Kentucky Expo Center, Louisville, KY. Phone: (800) 558-8767 or (502) 562-1962.

August 17-21

Floyd Perry's Groundskeeper's Management Academy, Bethel, CT. Phone: (800) 227-9381.

August 24-28

Floyd Perry's Groundskeeper's Management Academy, Colonial Heights, VA. Phone: (800) 227-9381.

August 31-September 4

Floyd Perry's Groundskeeper's Management Academy, Kissimmee, FL. Phone: (800) 227-9381.

September 14-18

University of California-Riverside Extension's Turfgrass Management Intensive Institute, Riverside, CA. Contact: Jan Crump, (909) 787-5804, ext. 1621.

September 16-18

National Lawn and Garden Trade Show, Philadelphia, PA. Contact: Liza Wylie, (203) 847-9599.

STMA MESSAGE

Sports
Turf
Managers Association



Striving for Excellence

You hear the chant after every championship game: "We're number one!" Accepting the challenge of a tough competition and performing at the very top level is a great accomplishment for the winning team - one that earns the respect and admiration of other teams, spectators, the media and the public at large.

In sports turf management, the opponents may be many. Scores aren't racked up on a scoreboard, but the competition is every bit as challenging. Sports turf managers have the opportunity to put themselves, their crews and their fields to the test in many ways.

First and foremost, managers must meet the daily challenge of providing fields that are consistently in the best possible condition. They must work through variables such as the initial quality of the field, weather and other environmental circumstances, budgetary constraints, and on-field activities. In other words, sports turf managers must consistently do the best possible job with the available resources.

The primary consideration is always the safety of the athlete. Playability ranks second, and aesthetics comes in third. Sports turf managers across the world emphasize that they'd rather have an ugly field that is safe and highly playable, than a beautiful field that is unsafe or one that adversely affects the game in any way.

Of course, the importance of aesthetics can't be ignored. For many of those in a position to judge the sports turf manager's job performance, perception is reality. If the field looks good then it must *be* good.

Often, that is the fact. Healthy, well managed turfgrasses will look better than sickly, poorly managed turfgrasses. An excellent field maintenance program with attention to detail will produce good results - *if* the combination of such negative factors as poor initial field design or construction, adverse weather conditions, funding cuts or overuse don't overwhelm the positives.

Excellent field appearance is also an image builder and a 'selling' factor. It serves a key role in the promotion of a school system, university, park district or professional team with fans, funding entities and the general public.

So, since you're already concentrating on all these important facets of field care anyway, why not take those extra steps to put your field and your program into the running for one of the Sports Turf Managers Association's Field of the Year awards? The STMA issues the awards annually to football, soccer and softball fields. We also present Baseball Diamond of the Year awards, in conjunction with *sportsTURF Magazine* and Beam Clay.

These are highly competitive awards programs, but fair ones. Each entry is judged independently by a panel of judges. Results, in the form of superior fields, are considered jointly with available resources. Management matters. It may take several years of fine-tuning your program to earn your way to number one, but the recognition for you, your crews and your field, within the industry and throughout your community, is well worth the effort.

Interested? Please contact STMA Headquarters for details on entering your field in any of these categories.

Stephen Guise, STMA President