



Comprehensive Green Industry Web Site

I've been doing a lot of traveling during the past few weeks to a number of industry trade shows. In addition to seeing old friends and making new ones, I've been attending general business seminars. An underlying theme has been the implications of technology: electronic commerce, the Internet, and the Y2K issue, to name a few.

Let me tell you, if you haven't taken a serious look at these issues, you better start today. If you don't take immediate action, you'll be left behind and your business will be negatively affected.

Here at Adams Business Media and within our Horticulture Group, we're accepting and embracing technological improvements — especially with our Web site.

Many of you have already visited our site. For those of you who aren't familiar with the Internet's comprehensive Green Industry Web site, you're missing out on an educational adventure.

Turn your computer on, get connected to the Internet, and dial up the following address: <http://www.sportsturfonline.com>. Don't be afraid; it won't bite. Our site serves landscape, irrigation, turfgrass, and tree care professionals. You'll be amazed at what you'll discover.

Let me whet your appetite.

Publications: www.sportsturfonline.com gives you access to the entire line of horticulture magazines published by Adams Business Media: *Arbor Age*, *California Fairways*, *Irrigation Journal*, *Landscape Design*, *Landscape & Irrigation*, *Outdoor Power Equipment (OPE)*, and *sportsTURF*. Each magazine's site is updated monthly and allows you access to the current issue.

Archives: Our site gives you access to back issues of all of our magazines, and our archives are easy to use. If you've misplaced an issue, or you want to find previously published articles on a particular topic or by a certain author, www.sportsturfonline.com gives you access to the information in seconds.

Show Calendar: Our comprehensive online trade show/meeting calendar keeps you up to date on what's happening in the green industry. It's updated weekly, and it lists scheduled events through 2001!

Discussion: An online discussion room allows you to post questions or enter a chat room to have online discussions with peers.

Industry Links: Our site provides links to industry distributors, professionals, associations, and advertising/public relations firms.

E-Mail Editors: www.sportsturfonline.com gives you access to all of our Green Industry editors through e-mail.

Products/Services: A comprehensive database of suppliers, vendors, and partners gives you access to a broad range of industry products and services. You can search by company name, product/service, or alpha company.

We're always open to new ideas. Our Web site is a living document, and we add new information daily. Please don't hesitate to call or e-mail your ideas to me or one of the editors, and be a part of the Green Industry's ONLY comprehensive Web site.

Have fun on your journey, and I hope to hear from you.

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Tip o' the Month

Safety First

by Kevin Robinson

When discussing field safety, many factors need to be addressed. A single overlooked detail can cause an injury, so it's important to be meticulous. All safety points should be monitored weekly, if not daily.

One of the best ways to watch for unsafe conditions is to stay alert while mowing. You cover the entire field during mowing, and if you're observant, you'll see conditions that need to be corrected. Keep an eye out for grading, drainage, compaction, lips on softball and baseball fields, worn areas, obstacles, and irregular irrigation heads.

Alert mowing can help you spot trouble areas, but it's still necessary to walk your field daily to get a first-hand feel for what's going on.

Grade and drainage

Initial grade work and drainage are probably the most important field safety factors. A field that has a consistent slope with no bumps or swells will avoid numerous potential injuries. Good grade work will also allow you to get more games in, since your field will recover quickly after rain.

Improper grade and drainage problems will produce standing water, which will result in divots and rutting — common sources of injury. Without good drainage, you'll end up with muddy and unsafe playing conditions. Field damage will be intensified, and the resulting beat-up surface can continue to contribute to injuries down the line.

Each sport has different specifications, and there are many ways to grade a field. However, there are a few guidelines that apply to all fields.

A one- to two-percent slope is optimum. This will allow some surface drainage in heavy rain events. The crown should fall in the middle of the field, and the catch basins should be

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