



Residential Equipment Adds Professional Touch

Tonight, after reading this issue of *sportsTURF* from cover to cover, spend a few minutes in front of the television (I probably don't have to twist your arm to get you to do that) and find a baseball game. Unless the game is being played in one of those outdated stadiums that still features artificial turf, you're bound to see at least some basic striping patterns on the infield and outfield grass. In some instances, when groundskeepers create elaborate designs or patterns in their fields, the playing surface can be more interesting to watch than the game being played on it.

As the editor of *sportsTURF*, I've seen hundreds of photos come across my desk from fields all across the country, and from all different levels: From Major to Little League. I've been surprised to see the amount of Minor League and college fields that feature striping designs as elaborate if not more so than the highest profile fields of Major League Baseball. For a good example, look back to the March issue of *sportsTURF*: on page 8 you'll see a wonderful shot of a design created by Head Groundskeepers Peter Webb and Brad Keith for Jetform Park, the Triple A affiliate of the Montreal Expos. The April issue shows some eye-catching designs from Shivey field, the baseball field for the University of Kentucky Wildcats.

While obtaining a high-grade commercial mower with rollers is realistic for professional and some collegiate fields, most groundskeepers probably don't have the resources to get this type of equipment. However, the popularity of field striping has created a demand in the residential sector, and manufacturers are listening. Simplicity Mfg. has recently introduced a lawn striping mower with full-width rollers to create striping patterns for residential groundskeepers with big-league aspirations for their lawns. These mowers are much cheaper than the large commercial equipment and should fit into many groundskeepers' budgets. Think of how excited players and fans would be to see their home field—whether it's a little league, high school or small college team—cut with stripes and patterns, just like they've seen on television.

For more information on Simplicity's lawn strippers, contact Troy Blewett, corporate communications manager, at (262) 284-8706.

A Message from the Executive Director

This May, the STMA has added a members only section to our Web site—www.sportsturfmanager.com. On that site, you post or review the latest research in the industry, share information and tips through our discussion board or place a classified advertisement. Perhaps the best news is that you can be guaranteed that you will only be sharing information with people like yourselves, national STMA members. To enter the section, you will need only your last name (user ID) and your STMA member number (password), which is listed on your membership card. This is one more benefit of your STMA membership.

I am sure that you will find the site useful.

Steve Trusty
Executive Director
Sports Turf Manager Association

Michael SanFilippo
(847) 427-2083

Tip of the Month

Eye Protection

by Kerry L. Beebe, O.D.

The American Optometric Association (AOA) offers this advice to help prevent eye injuries in the grounds maintenance environment:

- Wear wrap-around safety goggles, made of polycarbonate—the strongest lens material available. You can find these at most hardware and department stores. Look for the label that says the goggles meet the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z87.1 standard.
- Don't rely on ordinary prescription glasses for eye safety. Although they are impact-resistant, they are not safety eyewear. In addition, chemical or spray dust can get around the sides easily and into the eyes.
- Wear sunglasses that block 99 to 100 percent of the sun's UV-A and UV-B ultraviolet radiation and screen out 75 to 90 percent of light. Prolonged exposure to ultraviolet light over time can cause cataracts and may contribute to age-related macular degeneration, which are potentially blinding. Wide-brimmed caps and hats can only eliminate about 50 percent of UV radiation from reaching the eyes, but that's not enough.
- Additional tips for picking out sunglasses: If you can see your eyes through the lenses, the glasses are not dark enough. Look for a gray tint lens, as to not distort color perception.
- Cover the sharp tips of bamboo or metal stakes with plastic wire nuts to prevent an accidental puncture wound.

Continued on page 39