

Calendar of Events 2000

September 15

Troubleshooting in the Landscape: Identifying and Solving Tree and Landscape Problems, Doubletree Hotel, Ontario, CA. Contact Ted Stamen: (909) 787-5804; sciences@ucx.ucr.edu. Web site: www.ucr-extension.net/ns/ns.html.

October 2-3

Mississippi Turfgrass Association's (MTA) annual Conference and Trade Show, Hilton Hotel, Jackson, MS. Contact MTA: (662) 325-0517. Web site: <http://msgrassnursery.com/mta>.

October 4-5

Southern California Turfgrass Council's (SCTC) Turfgrass Landscape and Equipment Expo, Orange County Fairgrounds, Costa Mesa, CA. Contact SCTC: (800) 500-SCTC (7282)/(818) 764-5016; fax (818) 764-3363; expo@turf council.org. Web site: www.turf council.org.

October 6-7

Washington State Nursery & Landscape Association's inaugural Emerald Expo, Stadium Exhibition Center, Seattle, WA. Contact Julie Ellenhorn or Susan Solomon: (877) GREEN55/(425) 865-9709; emeraldexpo@jps.net. Web site: www.emerazldexpo.com

November 4-7

Green Industry Expo, Indiana Convention Center, Indianapolis, IN. Contact Sims Moore: (770) 973-2019.

November 14-16

Turf and Grounds Exposition, OnCenter, Syracuse, NY. Contact New York State Turfgrass Association: (800) 873-8873/(518) 783-1229.

STMA Message

Sports
Turf
Managers Association
www.sportsturfmanager.com



Striving to be Number One

Who is number one? Which NFL football team will take the Super Bowl title? Which college team will end the season at the top of the rankings? Predictions were already splashed across newspaper pages, flying over radio and television and much debated via the Internet while NFL football was still in pre-season games and before the season opener of college football.

The quest to be the best is the driving force behind any competitive sports program and that's as it should be. Striving to be number one provides each athlete and each team with the incentive to work that much harder on conditioning, to study the play book that much more, to sharpen skills in each individual component of game performance.

Great athletes welcome good, tough competition. They've learned from experience that matching their own performance against that of other great athletes helps improve the output of all the competitors. Each athlete analyzes and fine-tunes their strategies, preparing as much in advance as possible for the varying circumstances they may encounter. Once the game begins, focus is the key. While the great athletes see the big picture, they never lose sight of how they fit into it. Whether making an offensive or defensive move, they anticipate where and when acting to produce the desired outcome.

Sports turf managers function much like great athletes. They also work hard on conditioning themselves for the challenges ahead, they study the "play book" of design, construction and maintenance practices available to them and sharpen their skills for excellence in execution of those skills. Sports turf managers continually analyze and fine-tune their strategies in preparation for the varying circumstances they will encounter.

They take advantage of educational and networking opportunities, such as the STMA Annual Conference & Exhibition, Jan. 17 to 21, 2001, in Tampa, Fla., to key into the excellent educational and networking opportunities.

They also must keep focused on the big picture while determining where, when and how to act to produce the desired outcome. Sometimes they must act in advance by making all necessary preparations for specific events or conditions—including such defensive actions as covering the field to protect it from anticipated weather conditions. Sometimes they must act after an event, repairing damage that has occurred to the field or taking steps to create conditions that will minimize the effects of damage on the next field use event.

While sports turf managers seldom perform in the spotlight, the effects of their strategies and the effectiveness of the implementation of those strategies makes a major impact on the game. Which leads to this reminder: The STMA Field of the Year Program is one method of acknowledging top programs and showcasing those fields that have proven their performance. If you have a field that you believe is worthy of Field of the Year honors in soccer, softball, baseball or football, remember that in order to be considered, all entry materials must be sent to STMA Headquarters no later than Oct. 15, 2000.

Rich Moffitt
STMA President
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