

# Work smarter —not harder

BY FLOYD PERRY

**I**n sports field maintenance, there are a few major concerns such as Mother Nature, financing, and personnel issues that affect job performance on and off the field. But our biggest enemy is the time clock.

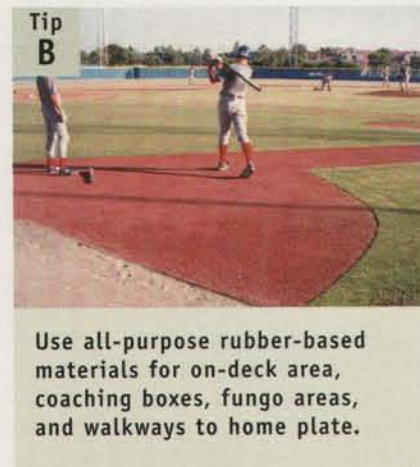
Progressive groundskeepers are eliminating daily tasks that are not relative to the overall performance of the participants. The athletic contest, regardless of the sport, is played between the lines. Put your best effort where the game is played!

This pictorial lineup shows ideas that progressive groundskeepers have developed to reduce time-consuming daily maintenance tasks on their playing fields. **ST**

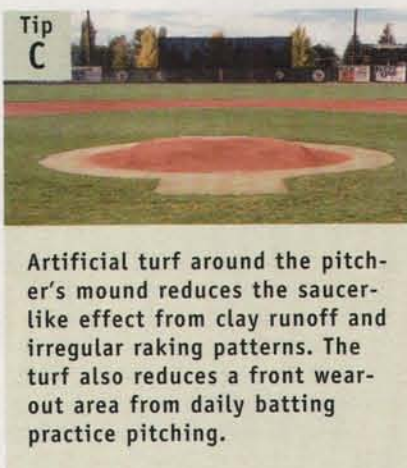
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Surround home plate with synthetic turf to reduce turf tear out and fungo area raking.



Use all-purpose rubber-based materials for on-deck area, coaching boxes, fungo areas, and walkways to home plate.



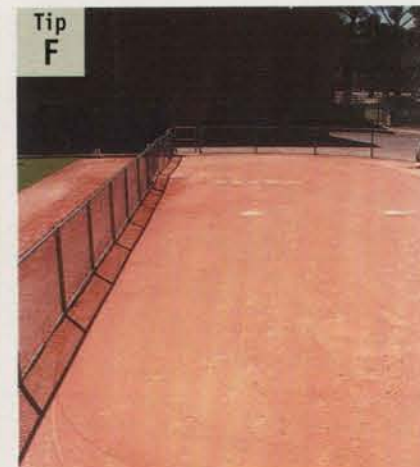
Artificial turf around the pitcher's mound reduces the saucer-like effect from clay runoff and irregular raking patterns. The turf also reduces a front wear-out area from daily batting practice pitching.



Extra large synthetic area surrounding each dugout avoids turf tear out and standing water.



Install a large valve box positioned behind the pitcher's mound to hold watering hose. This avoids carrying the hose in and out daily.



All-soil bullpens eliminate weekly mowing, irrigating, fertilizing, and non-game performance maintenance.

