

# Infield practices



## Here are some tips from the trenches

**S**PORTSTURF recently asked several turf managers the following question: What does your infield maintenance plan/schedule consist of?

### Mike Boekholder, Indianapolis Indians

Our daily infield maintenance schedule is quite routine. We begin our maintenance by watering the infield quite heavily, almost to the point of puddling, after a game (unless weather dictates otherwise). That way, by morning, the moisture has soaked into the profile deeply and gives us a base of moisture to begin the day with.

First thing in the morning the moisture level of the skin is checked and more water applied if needed. We then roll the sliding pits around the bags as well as the position spots on the infield to firm them up a bit more. The infield is then worked up in two different directions using a 3-foot by 3-foot homemade nail board. After the infield has been spiked, it is mat dragged with a handmade mat drag and the edges are broomed to provide a smooth transition between the infield skin and the turf. We add vitrified or calcined clay every 7-10 days to the infield skin with a drop spreader to keep our 1/4 cushion of conditioner consistent. After games, the entire infield is raked with an infield/bunker rake and then rolled for the evening, after which we apply the post-game water.

### Craig Potts, Texas A&M

For our softball field I water the dirt then put a nail drag on the skinned area. After the nail drag I clay the mound and plate area and then tamp those areas. Once I finish the plate and mound areas I level those two

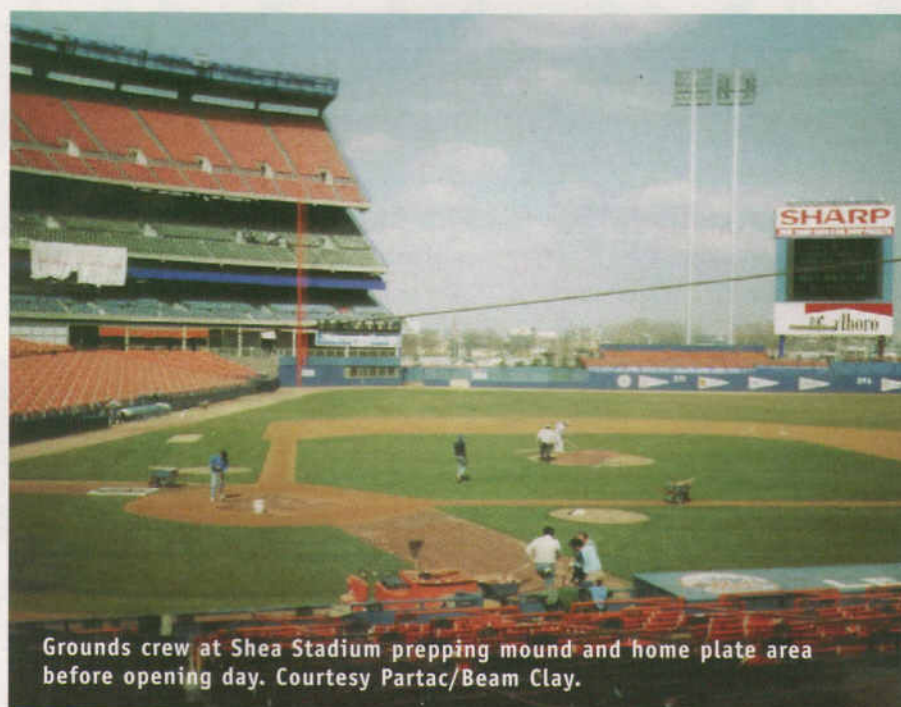
places and then pack them with my drag tractor. After this is finished I use my steel mat drag to put the finish drag on the infield. I then water the dirt several more times until right before the game or practice. I then go out and put one more finish drag on the infield to help fluff the calcined clay back to the top. Then I apply one more coat of water. I like to try to keep the infield as moist as possible. We perform daily maintenance on the lips with a broom and wash the lips approximately five times per year so we don't get any build-up of dirt in this area.

### Ryan Nieuwsma, Kane County Cougars

My infield schedule starts right after the game. I usually give it a light nail drag then drag it smooth. The first thing I do the next day is water it: a lot of water if it will be sunny all day, a little bit of water if it is cloudy. Then I monitor the water content, keep it wet until the team comes out for batting practice. I give it a watering right before batting practice starts. After both teams take batting practice I drag it smooth again and give it the final watering for the game. Depending on the weather, I could water up to five times a day or as few as twice. I always keep a layer of approximately a half-inch of infield conditioner on top. It is very important to keep that layer on there.

### Mike McDonald CSFM, University of Minnesota

We broom all our edges, mow the grass every other day, and clean up any mess. We water any drier or high spots more than the rest of the skinned area. We then hand rake and fill in low areas, then we scarify the skinned area with a machine. We fix the mound and home plate clay areas, drag the skinned area, and then re-water everything as needed.



Grounds crew at Shea Stadium prepping mound and home plate area before opening day. Courtesy Partac/Beam Clay.





## INFIELD CONDITIONER

Play Ball! infield conditioner is made from a unique, naturally occurring and highly absorbent mineral known as diatomaceous earth. Kiln fired with a special process, Play Ball! particles hold up to repeated wet/dry cycles without breaking down into dust or mud. The product absorbs more water than other infield conditioners, and helps make infields playable faster in wet conditions. It comes in 25-lb. bags that are easy to handle. Available through a national network of dealers.

Eagle-Picher Minerals/800-366-7607

For information, circle 158

## PHILLIES GOING NATURAL

This month SRI Sports (formerly Southwest Recreation Industries) will take the first steps to install more than 133,000-sq. ft. of bluegrass in the Philadelphia Phillies' new ballpark. The company will excavate the site, install an automatic watering system for sunny days and a cutting-edge dewatering system for not-so-sunny days, construct bullpens, warning tracks, and batting and pitching tunnels under the stadium. Field installation should wrap up by October. It will be the sixth major league baseball field installed by SRI Sports, which has put turf into stadiums in Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Kansas City, and New York (for both the Yankees and Mets).

SRI Sports/512-259-0080

For information, circle 168 or

see [www.oners.ims.ca/2077-168](http://www.oners.ims.ca/2077-168)



## NO YELLOW EQUIPMENT

Some things are supposed to be yellow. Your equipment isn't one of them. Dimension is a selective herbicide for control of labeled annual grasses and broadleaves in established turfgrass. It never stains and always delivers long-lasting prevention of crabgrass, Poa annua and several broadleaf weeds, including spurge and oxalis. It also offers early postemergence crabgrass control. Other features include a low use rate, a broad application window and a low toxicity potential to mammals, birds and insects.

Dow AgroSciences

800-255-3726

For information, circle 160 or

see [www.oners.ims.ca/2077-160](http://www.oners.ims.ca/2077-160)

## VERSATILITY THAT SAVES YOU MONEY

### Field Accessories for Sports Turf

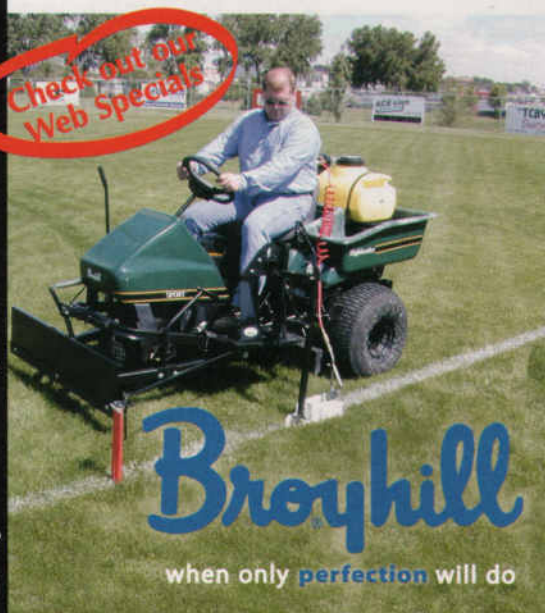
- 6 Models of Line Markers
- Line Marking Concentrated Paint
- 2 Models of Vacuums
- Refuse Utility Vehicle
- 2 Ball Field Finishers w/new Brush Kit
- 16 models of Sprayers
- 8 Models of Core Aerators
- Spiker / Roller 66"
- 2 Models of Utility Trailers
- 2 Models of Utility Vehicles

Call Broyhill today to see all the ways the Highlander Sport will work for you!  
1.800.228.1003 ext.34  
[www.broyhill.com](http://www.broyhill.com)

Highlander Sport®  
By Broyhill



3 WHEEL HYDROSTATIC DRIVE  
12 MPH TOP SPEED  
WRAP AROUND CARGO BOX  
40" FRONT DOZER BLADE  
ADJUSTABLE DEPTH CONTROL FOR CENTER ATTACHMENTS  
MID AND REAR MOUNT HYDRAULIC LIFTS  
EASY MAINTENANCE ACCESSIBILITY



## MICROBIAL INOCULANT

Growth Products offers Companion, a liquid microbial inoculant containing Bacillus subtilis GB03 bacteria. Use it, and you'll have greener, healthier turf and a root system that is stronger, denser, and cleaner, says the company. You'll also have a higher percentage of beneficial microbes. University studies show that applications of beneficial microbes reduce the number of fungal pathogens, improve plant vigor, and enable better nutrient uptake by plants. Companion is all natural, so there is no risk of phytotoxicity. It requires no special handling/storage and has a shelf life of more than 2 years.

Growth Products/800-648-7626

For information, circle 167 or

see [www.oners.ims.ca/2077-167](http://www.oners.ims.ca/2077-167)



**YOUR "ONE-STOP SOURCE"  
FOR AMERICA'S LEADING  
BASEBALL SURFACES & SUPPLIES**



THE PROFESSIONAL'S CHOICE  
... SINCE 1922

USED BY OVER 100 PRO TEAMS,  
OVER 600 COLLEGES, PLUS THOUSANDS  
OF TOWNS & SCHOOLS WORLDWIDE.  
SPECIAL MIXES FOR INFIELDS,  
PITCHER'S MOUNDS & HOME PLATE AREAS.

**REGIONAL INFIELD MIXES  
AND RED WARNING TRACKS  
FOR EVERY STATE & CLIMATE!**

PLUS INFIELD CONDITIONERS  
TO IMPROVE EXISTING INFIELDS:

**IF TOO HARD AND POORLY DRAINING!**

**Pro's Choice**

THE REDDER, LESS DUSTY, MORE UNIFORM  
INFIELD CONDITIONER & DRYING AGENT

"RED" OR "GREY" FOR INFIELDS

"GREEN" FOR TURF

FOR CONSISTENT INFIELD CUSHION  
IN WET OR DRY WEATHER!

**IF TOO SOFT & DUSTY!**

**STABILIZER®**

FOR FIRM, YET RESILIENT, PLAYING SURFACES

**TO QUICKLY DRY INFIELDS!**

The Original & Most Absorbent is Now

**NEW & IMPROVED GRANULAR**

**DIAMOND-DRY®**



WHAT!  
We Came 100 Miles  
And You STILL Don't Use  
DIAMOND-DRY!



**OVER 200 OTHER INFIELD PRODUCTS!**

Now in 6 Colors!

**FENCEGUARD**  
Protective Safety Covers  
for Chain Link Fence

WALL PADDING • WINDSCREEN • RAIL PADDING  
TAMPERS • DRAG MATS • RAKES  
HOLLYWOOD® BASES • FIELD MARKING MACHINES  
BATTING PRACTICE COVERS • RAIN COVERS  
PERMA-MOUND™ PADS • MOUND BRICKS  
SAFE "T" MATT™ BATTER'S BOX PADS  
TYPAR® & TERRA-BOND® GEOTEXTILES  
ON-DECK CIRCLES WITH TEAM LOGOS  
PERMANENT FOUL LINES & MUCH MORE!

**FREE INSTRUCTIONAL BROCHURES  
DISTRIBUTION CENTERS NATIONWIDE!**

**800-247-BEAM**

908-637-4191 / FAX 908-637-8421

PARTAC PEAT CORPORATION

KELSEY PARK, GREAT MEADOWS, NJ 07838

**"The best infield mix I've ever used."  
— GEORGE TOMA**

Circle 110 on card or [www.oners.ims.ca/2077-110](http://www.oners.ims.ca/2077-110)

**In & On the Ground**

**FUNGICIDE FOR TURF USE**

Vital 4L fungicide, marketed by Griffin LLC, has received EPA approval for use in turf and ornamentals. The product is a systemic liquid fungicide that controls Pythium, Phytophthora and downy mildew pathogens that has been used effectively in the agricultural market for years, and may be a very cost-effective treatment when compared to the standards used in the turf market today, says the company.

Vital can be tank-mixed with Junction, Concord and Pentathlon. There are no heavy metals in the formulation, which means the product is safer to both plants and applicator. The fungicide is rapidly absorbed and translocated throughout the entire plant through the xylem and phloem.

California registration is expected within the next year.

Griffin LLC/800-737-3995

For information, circle 164 or

see [www.oners.ims.ca/2077-164](http://www.oners.ims.ca/2077-164)



**TURFACE**

The TURFACE line of sports field products includes Pro League, MVP, Quick Dry, Red, and Double Team. Manufactured from raw clay mineral, TURFACE products relieve compaction and prevent bad hops and rainouts on skinned infields. On football, soccer and other turf-based fields, these products improve drainage and reduce compaction for superior playing surfaces.

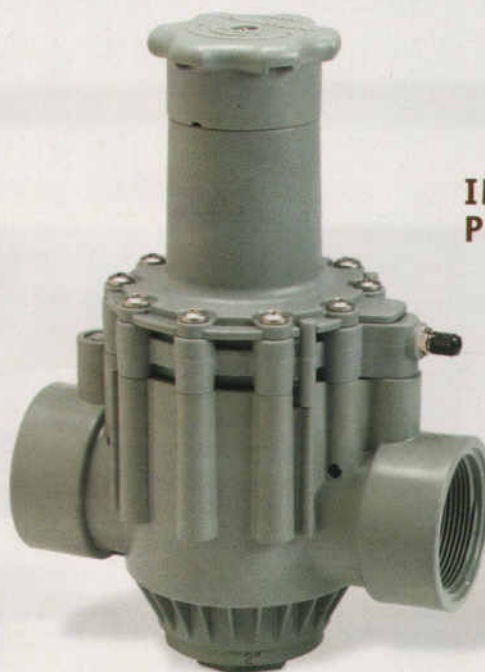
Profile Products LLC/800-207-6457

For information, circle 161 or

see [www.oners.ims.ca/2077-161](http://www.oners.ims.ca/2077-161)



**TURFACE**  
*Pro League Red*  
Color • Conditioning • Performance



**IMPROVE IRRIGATION  
PERFORMANCE**

When a water pressure-reducing valve is desired, try the new Rain Bird PRV, made of PVC, a pressure-regulating valve that is designed for point-of-connection applications. By reducing high inlet pressures to lower outlet pressures, the PRV improves irrigation performance and conserves water at the same time, says Rain Bird.

Rain Bird/800-282-1933

For information, circle 162 or

see [www.oners.ims.ca/2077-162](http://www.oners.ims.ca/2077-162)



# Super Bowl XXXVII review

## Toro's been there since 1967

**T**he Toro Company and the NFL's Super Bowl grounds team collaborated to initiate a new program targeted at enhancing the skills of emerging sports turf professionals. The Toro Super Bowl Sports Turf Training Program offered hands on experience to winner Loyd Bowman, a Michigan State turf student, in how safe playing fields are established and maintained for the highest level of football competition—the Super Bowl. Bowman was in San Diego to help the grounds crew maintain practice facilities, NFL Experience areas, and the game field for Super Bowl XXXVII.

Each year since the inaugural World Championship in 1967 and the 36 succeeding Super Bowls, the NFL grounds crew has called on The Toro Company for its expertise to prep the game field as well as multiple practice facilities and fan recreational areas including the NFL Experience.

"Getting ready for a Super Bowl is a complex process," says Ed Mangan, NFL grounds manager for the Super Bowl. "The turf has to respond to the players. Keep them safe. Help their game. It also has to survive pre-game festivities and half-time performances as challenging as running a herd of elephants through the field.

"Toro has helped us answer that challenge with products and agronomic consultation," Mangan says. "Toro's expertise goes beyond having products to care for the turf to expertise that helps us predict how the turf will respond with the set of conditions at each host facility. And they've been there every year."



Photo by AP/WWP, courtesy of West Coast Turf

For the NFL, this program is another opportunity to expand its reach into communities in unique ways. The NFL Grassroots initiative has provided more than \$8 million for the construction and renovation of community football fields. But the needs of these fields don't end following construction. "In the past we've addressed many aspects of the future of the game: participation, coaching and accessibility to fields," says Jim Steeg, senior vice president of special events for the NFL. "The Toro Super Bowl Sports Turf Training Program reflects our interest in helping to provide trained turf professionals to

maintain safe playing conditions at all levels of competitive football."

Toro's outreach program began when James R. Watson, Ph.D. joined Toro as an agronomist in the 1950s. Now retired, Toro continues the focus with agronomist Van Cline, Ph.D. and other industry training programs. Toro is a sponsor of a turf training curriculum for high school athletic directors through the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. Annually, Toro hosts the Professional Sports Turf Symposium dedicated to turf managers with the NFL and Major League Baseball teams. Additionally, Toro maintains an on-line home for the best ideas and advice for anyone managing sports turf at [Torosports.com](http://Torosports.com).

In addition to the Toro Super Bowl Sports Turf Training Program, Toro offers the Dr. James R. Watson Scholarships administered by the Foundation for Safer Athletic Field Environments and the Sports Turf Managers Association for turf students dedicated to sports turf maintenance.

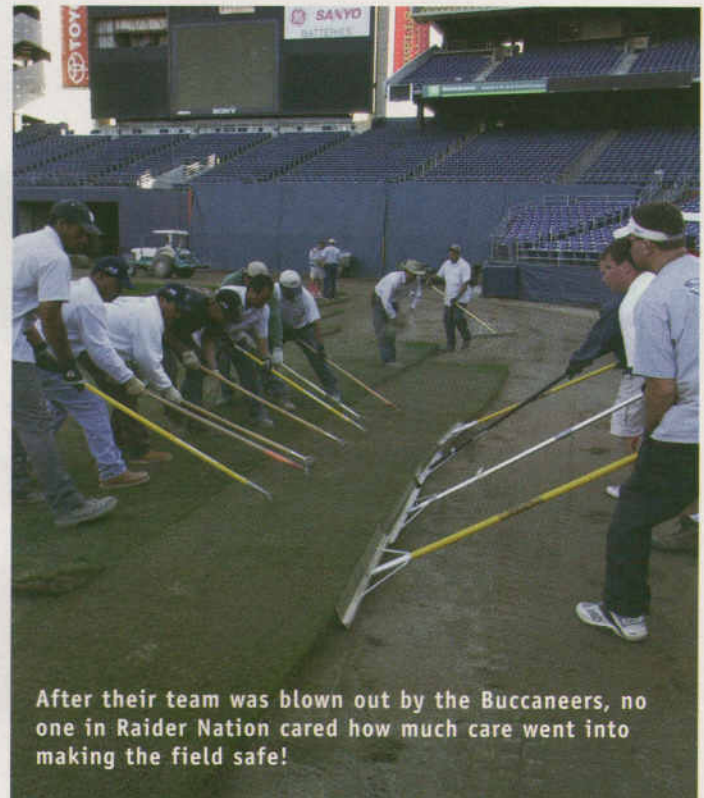


# Before the hype

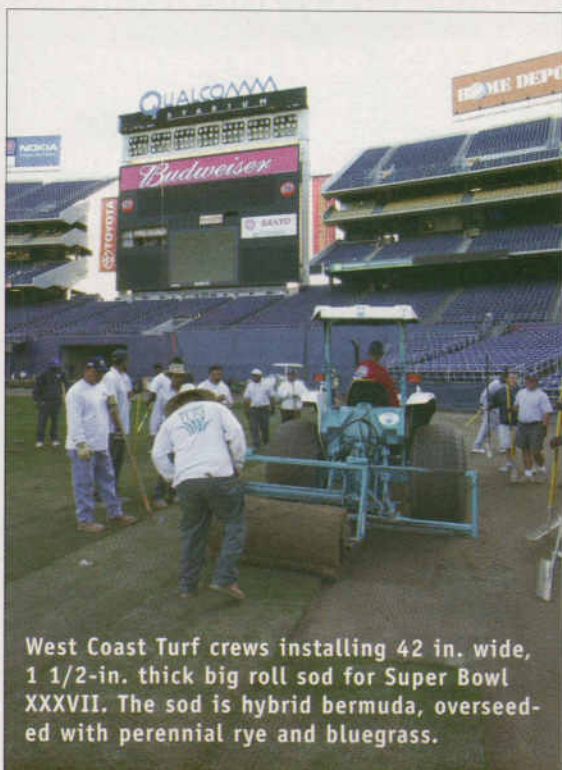
*Photos courtesy of West Coast Turf*



Turf installation was completed on Day 3.



After their team was blown out by the Buccaneers, no one in Raider Nation cared how much care went into making the field safe!

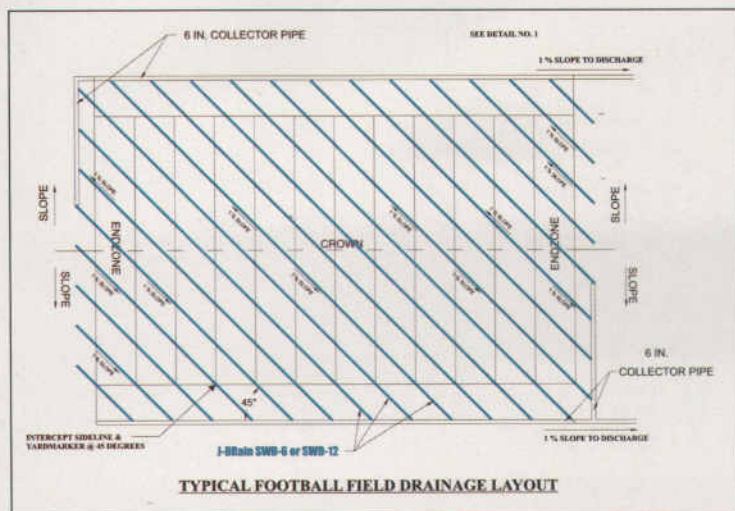


West Coast Turf crews installing 42 in. wide, 1 1/2-in. thick big roll sod for Super Bowl XXXVII. The sod is hybrid bermuda, overseeded with perennial rye and bluegrass.



San Diego Super Bowl crew members from Tokyo to Tennessee, Kansas City to Vermont, including member from West Coast Turf. Marquis de Sod George Toma is center with yellow shirt. Qualcomm's Steve Wightman is missing from this photo.





## TURF DRAINAGE SYSTEM

J-DRain is a composite turf drainage system consisting of a 3D, high flow, drainage core and a non-woven, needle-punched filter fabric, which is wrapped and bonded to the core, preventing intrusion of the filter fabric into the flow channels during backfilling. Soil particles are held back by the filter fabric allowing water to pass through to the drainage core, and allowing water to be collected and conveyed to the discharge point. Used in both natural and synthetic turf applications.

JDR Enterprises/800-843-7569

For information, circle 159 or

see [www.oners.ims.ca/2077-159](http://www.oners.ims.ca/2077-159)

## PROFESSIONAL GROUNDSKEEPING PRODUCTS



Diamond Pro offers a complete line of professional groundskeeping products, including infield conditioners, calcined clay, mound & home-plate clay/bricks, marking dust, infield and warning track mixes. The company prides itself on fast delivery.

Diamond Pro's vitrified clay red infield conditioner, easy to handle and apply, is available in bulk nationwide. Truckloads are available in 10-, 15-, and 24-ton loads that save you both time and money. Create an all-around safe professional infield playing surface.

Diamond Pro/800-228-2987

For information, circle 169 or

see [www.oners.ims.ca/2077-169](http://www.oners.ims.ca/2077-169)

## ARTIFICIAL TURF TESTING

Turf Diagnostics & Design has expanded its services to include artificial turf hardness and subgrade testing. Expanded testing capabilities include F355 or Gmax testing, which provides the capability to determine field hardness. Subgrade testing is to ensure that the materials used in field construction meet project specifications for material size, hardness, and drainage. This testing, which should be performed before and during field construction, helps to ensure that the field will drain properly and have consistent performance and playability.

Turf Diagnostics & Design/913-780-6725

For information, circle 165 or

see [www.oners.ims.ca/2077-165](http://www.oners.ims.ca/2077-165)

**Nothing protects your**  
**sideline**  
**better than**  
**EnkamatPlus®**  
**Turf**  
**season after season**



Call our distributor Covermaster for product information and pricing.

**COLBOND**

info@colbond-usa.com

1-800-365-7391

[www.colbond-usa.com](http://www.colbond-usa.com)

**COVERMASTER**  
**COVERMASTER**  
**COVERMASTER**

info@covermaster.com

1-800-387-5808

[www.covermaster.com](http://www.covermaster.com)

## FILTRATION SYSTEM

The Lee County Sports Complex, winter home of the Minnesota Twins, hosts four baseball



fields including the main stadium. Irrigation water is supplied to the fields from a small lake in the complex. When first testing the source water from this lake, visible clumps of biomass sludge were discovered. The lake that supplies the irrigation water had a foul odor and was loaded with anaerobic organics that had turned septic from stagnation. The automatic 850-gpm irrigation system was automatically activated each night, and each morning a crew had to repair clogged irrigation heads.

Miller-Leaman supplied a 10-Pod Automatic Turbo-Disc filtration system to resolve the problem. The grounds supervisor reported that no repair service for clogged irrigation heads has been required after the system has been installed.

Miller-Leaman/386-248-0500

For information, circle 166 or

see [www.oners.ims.ca/2077-166](http://www.oners.ims.ca/2077-166)