SPORTSTURF asked several prominent turf managers to answer questions on how they stripe their fields. Here are some of the responses:

Trevor Vance, Kansas City Royals

**ST: In your opinion, what are the most important things to know about mowing designs on baseball fields?**

**Vance:** The field is the backdrop of the game. You want it to look crisp, sharp, and professional. Don't take away from the game; the fans come to see the players, and after they say, "Wow!" when they first see the field, you don't want them talking about it any more. You want your field to be beautiful but not "loud."

Get comfortable with your mower first. Start simple; cutting a straight line isn't as easy as it looks. Maybe start by cutting 1/2 circles; then you can't tell if your lines are not straight. Don't repeatedly go over a line trying to get it straight though.

**Lopas doesn't always keep it simple though. His post-9/11 American flag was a masterpiece, as was the tribute "26" cut into the outfield to honor long-time Angels owner Gene Autry after he passed away. The number refers to Autry's status as the "26th man" on the roster, says Lopas.**

For three seasons Lopas and crew mowed the outfield with walk-behinds but now have some nine-blade triplex mowers from Jacobsen for the outfield, as well both Jake and Toro walk-behind models. He uses them all to create his stripes.

Lopas says if you're just starting to cut some lines into your field, use string lines to centerfield or a foul line, then mow three lines, mow them back again, before moving on to three more lines, and so on. "Pick a point on the fence and head straight for it. Once your lines are mowed in, it's a piece of cake from there," Lopas says. "Even I could do it!"

**Barney Lopas, Anaheim Angels**

In his 9th year in Anaheim, Barney Lopas keeps it simple. "We cut a line from home plate directly to where each of our players stands, and we keep it that way throughout the entire homestand," he says of his infield mowing patterns.

"When the team's gone, we mow in different directions, but 5 or 6 days before they are back, we starting burning in the old pattern," Lopas says.

Collin Castille, Houston Astros

**ST: In your opinion, what are the most important things to know about mowing designs on baseball fields?**

**Castille:** Knowing what your grass is capable of doing is the most important. What will the grass look like when you put a particular pattern in? How many times do you have to mow in order to get the grass looking the way you want it (or how long does it take to get an old pattern out).

**ST: What equipment do you use to stripe?**

**Castille:** We use mowers with rollers on them. Our walk behind, which we use for the infield, is a reel mower with a small roller in the front and a large drum in the back of the cutting unit. Our outfield unit has three reels on it, also has rollers in front and in back of the cutting unit. These rollers do very good jobs and produce what we are looking for.

**ST: Do you have to make adjustments in your maintenance schedule to mow designs?**

**Castille:** No, we are fortunate that we do not have to make any adjustments to our program in order to create a pattern on our field. Our grass stripes up nicely. The only drawback to our field is that we have to cut our grass pretty low. In order for us to get a pattern to look very good we have to mow it at least five times in order to make it look good. If we ever wanted to do something with high detail we would probably have to mow it more than five times.

**ST: Any other advice for those who want to mow patterns on baseball fields?**

**Castille:** Keep your patterns simple and clean. Don't have more than one pattern in at a time. **ST**
TOPDRESSER FOR PROGATORS
Specifically designed for the John Deere ProGator 2020 and 2030 utility vehicles, the TD100 Top Dresser is made of galvanized steel hopper that resists corrosion and is supported by a steel frame for strength. A fixed-speed nylon/polyester cord, endless conveyor belt moves material under the metering gate and through a rotating brush for even distribution. The conveyor belt and rotating brush are powered by a hydraulic motor that operates off the ProGator hydraulic system.

John Deere/800-537-8233
For information, circle 062 or see http://www.oners.ims.ca/4572-062

LOW-PROFILE SPRAYER
The Smithco Spray Star 1000 is a low-profile sprayer offering a new Hydro Drive System that eliminates belt drive/3-speed mechanical system maintenance. The unit's turning radius allows maneuvering around the tightest areas, while the 7.1-psi footprint floats over delicate areas. Extremely precise controls for spray application rates plus hydraulic power steering and the choice of computerized or manual spray control system.
Smithco/877-323-7668
For information, circle 064 or see http://www.oners.ims.ca/4572-064

"TURF TENDER"
Dakota Peat & Equipment has introduced the 414 Turf Tender to its topdresser product line. Built at the request of customers, the 414 features a 4-yeard hopper and is designed to spread any type of material needed for turf maintenance. The 414 features an electrically controlled hydraulic system that allows you to control spinner speed and belt speed from the tractor seat for "on-the-go" spread pattern adjustments.
Dakota Peat & Equipment/800-477-8415
For information, circle 065 or see http://www.oners.ims.ca/4572-065

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**TOPDRESSER HYDRAULIC KIT OPTION**

The Ty-Crop ProPass 180 low impact broadcast topdresser now offers an optional self-contained engine powered hydraulic pump and reservoir. The unit can be towed behind many types of vehicles, regardless of their hydraulic capabilities, which means you can share the topdresser without sharing the tow vehicle. Units feature light foot print, accurate spread pattern (so there's no need to drag or brush in afterwards), and gives you the versatility to spread a variety of materials at varying widths and depths.

Ty-Crop/800-845-7249
For information, circle 066 or see http://www.oners.ims.ca/4572-066

**REDEXIM’S TOPDRESSER**

Redexim Charterhouse introduces topdressers to its line of turf maintenance equipment. Most models use hydraulics to power a permanently self-aligning conveyor belt, delivering the wet or dry material directly to the rotary brush, which can deliver a variety of materials, including sand and rubber infill mix, for a spread up to 1/2-in. thick in one pass. The Easy Spread model is a low cost solution that can be used with a variety of materials, spreading as much as 8 tons in one day using a single operator.

Redexim Charterhouse Inc/800-597-5664
For information, circle 067 or see http://www.oners.ims.ca/4572-067

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These 52- and 132-in. aerodynamically designed shielded sprayers deliver an even spray of small droplets that "stick" to vegetation achieving greater coverage with less chemicals. Independent floating chambers follow the ground contours for precise application. The spray attachment is for Grasshopper’s full line of True ZeroTurn, FrontMount, and MidMount mowers.

Grasshopper/626-345-6621

For information, circle 069 or see http://www.oners.ims.ca/4572-069

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**IMPROVED NEWRIDER MARKING MACHINE**

Newstripe, Inc. has improved features on the NewRider 2000 riding field marking machine. Alloy steel axles, integrated heat shield, and reduced height improves its overall durability and value. The 65-gal. tank can paint up to 22,000 feet of 4-in. line, the equivalent of 4 football fields. The unit has all welded structural steel chassis, 10 hp commercial grade engine, dual paint pumps and hydrostatic transmission. Comes with an 18-month warranty, the longest available.

Newstripe, Inc/800-624-6765

For information, circle 071 or see http://www.oners.ims.ca/4572-071

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The TS-48 by GreensGroomer overseeds, opens dry spots, and aerates. Strictly a tow behind unit that requires hydraulics, PTO, separate power source (engine), or 3-point hitch setup. The TS-48 is made up of two rows of tines, offset front to back to create 2 in. on center spacing. Each row of tines has a split shaft, reducing turf damage while making sharp turns. Two 25-gal. water tanks present infinite adjustment of addition weight.

GreensGroomer/888-298-8892

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SPORTSTURF 35
TORO CORE COLLECTOR

Toro has introduced the Pro Sweep 5200 core collector that features a 52-in. sweeping width with an exclusive floating brush housing that rotates from side to side and front to back, allowing the sweeper to collect cores on uneven terrain. The pivoting sub-frame allows you to maintain positive tongue weight and for better traction on inclines, even when the sweeper is filling up. In addition, the roller height is adjustable for specific turf applications.

The Pro Sweep is powered by a heavy-duty Workman’s high flow hydraulics. Toro Commercial Equipment/800-344-8676

For information, circle 070 or see http://www.oners.ims.ca/4572-070

PLANTAIR AERATORS

PlanetAir continues to excel in the aeration market with the unveiling of the High Density 50 Tow and the High Density 50 PTO aerators. PlanetAir boasts the ability to produce a 3/4-in. hole with a “2x2” spacing at a rate of 1.2 acres per hour. The patented coring tine cuts clean cores at the surface and shatters the soil below. This technology results in up to 90% less clean up, says the company. The results are more durable, dense and playable turf due to the intense root zone aeration. The unit’s versatility means you can aerate circles around a pitcher’s mound, goal post, or difficult corners while the aerator is working in the ground without tearing turf.

PlanetAir Turf Products, LLC/877-800-8845

For information, circle 073 or see http://www.oners.ims.ca/4572-073

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For information, circle 091 or see http://www.oners.ims.ca/4572-091

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**NEW HYDRO VERTI-DRAIN**

Redexim Charterhouse has unveiled a new ride on Verti-Drain 7007 with hydrostatic drive, powered by a 13-hp Briggs and Stratton Vanguard OHV engine, and uses a hydrostatic transmission supplied by Eaton, with a forward speed of over 6.5 mph. It has a three-wheel drive option available, and has a working capacity of over 12,000 sq. ft. per hour.  
Redexim Charterhouse/800-597-5664  
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Millcreek Manufacturing/800-311-1323  
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SPORTSTURF 37
BETTER SPREADER CONTROL
EarthWay Products introduces the Ev-N-Spred Control Center that allows the operator to balance the spread pattern for the left and right side throwing ports and to control the rate with the spring-close "T" speed handle.
EarthWay/574-968-7691
For information, circle 068 or see http://www.oners.ims.ca/4572-068

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Inditherm/781-686-1378
For information, circle 088 or see http://www.oners.ims.ca/4572-088

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Graco/800-600-2894
For information, circle 061 or see http://www.oners.ims.ca/4572-061
Earth & Turf Products introduces its Model 24D TruFlow, a push-type topdresser for dry, flowable materials, including sand, infield mix and calcined clay on athletic fields. Features include: 3-cu.ft. capacity; 8-in. diameter dispersal drum; 24-in wide spreading pattern; spreading begins when front wheels engage the ground, no engagement lever; and ends spreading when tilted back on rear wheels.

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