

Kyle Field's turf the "13th man"?

The football stadium at Texas A&M University in College Station is home to the 2004 STMA College Football Field of the Year. Leo Goertz, athletic fields maintenance manager, and his assistant manager, Craig Potts, deserve congratulations for this award.

The famous home of the "12th Man," Kyle Field was built nearly 100 years ago; from 1927 until 1972, it featured a native soil, natural grass surface, then, as was the trend, Astroturf was installed. In 1996, the A & M athletic department began reconstruction of the surface, removing the plastic, asphalt base, and 16 inches of subsurface.

This subsurface was compacted and 4 inches of pea gravel was added along with drainage pipe. A 12-inch sand rootzone meeting USGA standards was placed over the pea gravel and laser-graded to an 8-inch crown, fumigated, and planted with Tifway 419 washed sod. Irrigation is provided by an electronically controlled system that consists of seven zones with 57 Hunter I-40 heads and is capable of applying 1/2 inch of water an hour.

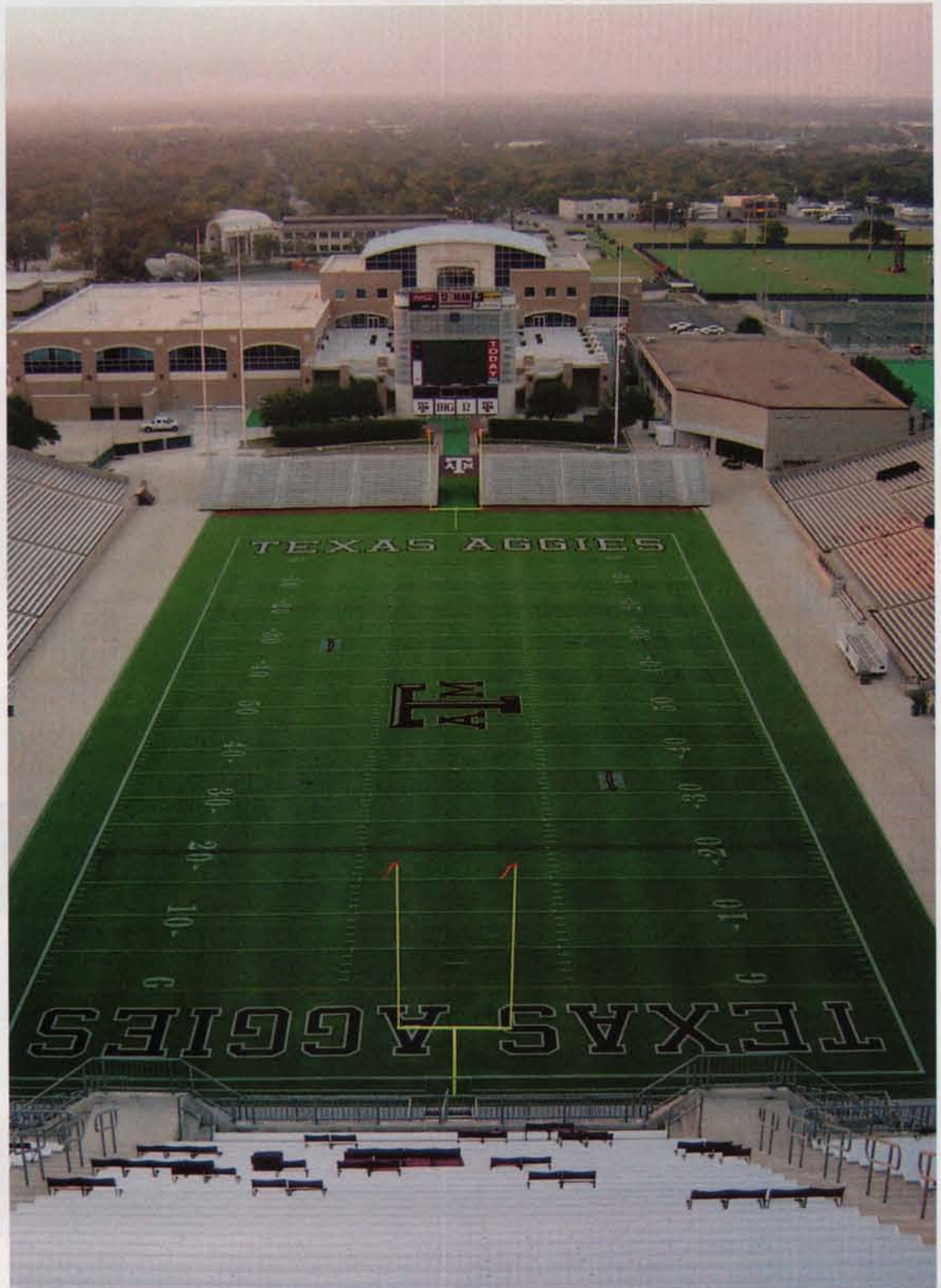
Kyle Field sees action 8-9 months a year, most heavily between May and November. Besides Aggie football demands, the field also see Corps of Cadets final review as well as numerous media functions. The summer finds hundreds of young athletes on campus for football camps, and in the fall the field hosts high school playoff action as well.

The band

The university's renowned Fightin' Texas Aggie Band, a military style marching band, creates issues for Leo and Craig. The 400-member band's routines are intricate and include many members' stepping in exactly the same spot. This creates considerable wear, especially in the vital middle of the gridiron. The toughest part is Friday morning's pre-game practice, which damages the field the day before the football game. Add in traditional Friday night Midnight Yell practice and the fact that the field is open to fans after every home game!

Water management is a big issue. Summer temps of more than 100 degrees combined with 100% humidity aren't good for turfgrass. Also, the municipally supplied irrigation water is high in sodium, a problem within a problem. The maintenance staff watches carefully for signs of stress and reacts to those signs with deep and frequent watering. Wetting agents and turf conditioners are sometimes used to maximize water infiltration and retention.

Goertz and Potts are responsible for all A & M's varsity



athletic complexes. With baseball, soccer, softball, tennis and track, it totals more than 21 acres of turf. The soccer field will host this December's NCAA Women's Championships.

December

Mow as needed at 1/2 inch
Irrigate as needed **ST**

Equipment Used

Toro 5500 5-gang fairway mower
Toro Multi-Pro 1200 sprayer
Toro Multi-Pro sprayer
Toro Workman 3200 w/ utility bed
Toro Workman 3300 w. topdresser
Toro 5400 HL sweeper
John Deere 955 utility tractor w/ loader bucket
John Deere Aercore 1500
John Deere 6 x 4 Gator
Club Car utility vehicle
Parker Estate sweepers
Graco 3500 line laser airless painters (3)
National 8400 belt-driven verticutter
Smithco Sweep Star P48 turf sweeper
1-ton construction roller (rented)
Cub Cadet walk-behind edger
String trimmer
Stick edger

In-season maintenance program

(Fungicide and weed control applied as necessary throughout the year; painting of field done as needed.)

July/August

Mow daily at 5/8 inch
Fertilize biweekly with 21-0-18 at rate of 0.5 lb. N/1,000 sq. ft.
Irrigate as needed
Core aerify, sweep, and roll field with 1-ton roller
Aerify using 1/2-inch solid tines
Topdress with sand that matches original field profile

September

Mow daily at 3/4 inch
Fertilize biweekly with 21-0-18 at rate of 0.5 lb. N/1,000 sq. ft.
Irrigate as needed
Aerify using 1/4-inch needle tines as schedule permits
Apply foliar application of iron as needed

October/November

Mow daily at 3/4 inch
Fertilize biweekly with 21-0-18 at rate of 0.5 lb. N/1,000 sq. ft.
Irrigate as needed
Aerify using 1/4-inch needle tines as schedule permits
Overseed with 5 lbs. perennial ryegrass (Futura 2000) and 10 lbs. annual ryegrass (Pantera) per 1000 sq. ft.
Apply foliar application of iron as needed

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FROM: LIGHTNING STADIUM
TEMP: 65 F TEMP RATE: +1.5 F/hr
WIND: Strong ENE
HUMIDITY: 60%
RAIN RATE: 0.00 in/hr
DAILY TOTAL: 0.02 in MONTHLY TOTAL: 3.41 in

AREA WEATHER

Station Name	CR Time	Distance	Temp	Winds
Maryland Science Center	2:40	96 miles	66	ENE 2mph
Francis Smith High School	2:41	2.04 miles	64	E 9mph
Morrell Park School	2:38	2.78 miles	65	ENE 3mph
Lawrence School	3:42	3.41 miles	65	E 4mph

LOCAL FORECAST
FOR: Baltimore, MD

Today
Increasing clouds. Highs in the lower 60s. Light winds.

Tonight
Occasional showers. Not as cold with lows in the lower 50s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 80 percent.

Friday
Cloudy with showers likely. Highs in the upper 60s. Southeast winds around 10 mph. Chance of rain 70 percent.

Friday Night
Cloudy. Showers likely in the evening. Then a chance of showers after midnight. Lows in the mid 50s. East winds around 10 mph. Chance of rain 60 percent.

HISTORICAL OBSERVATIONS
DAILY DATA +
MONTHLY DATA +
STATION GRAPHS +

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